

THE QUARTERLY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
IN PALESTINE

VOL. VII

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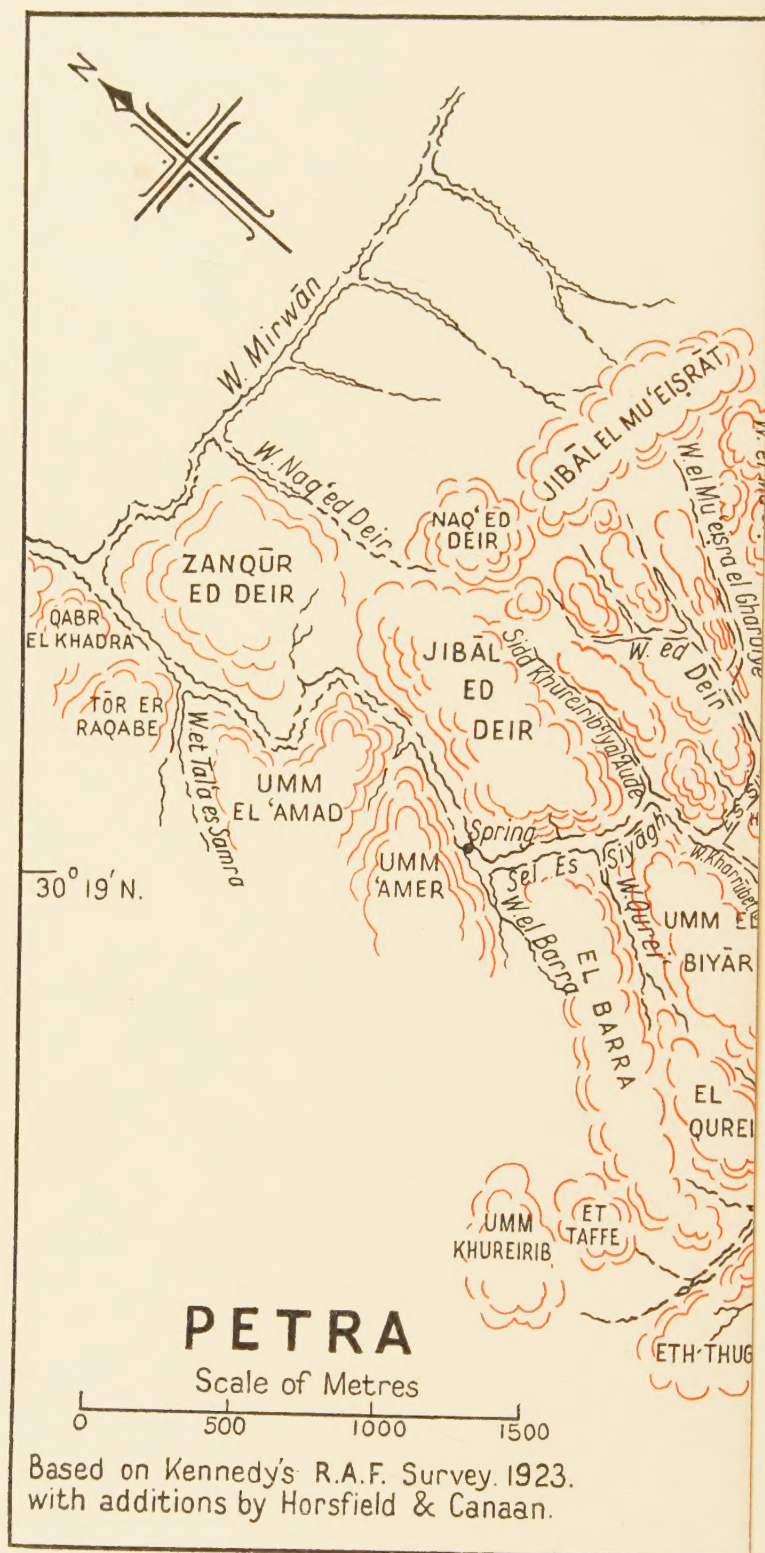
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SELA-PETRA, THE ROCK, OF EDM AND NABATENE

AMONG historical episodes relating to the Near East, the rise and decline of Petra, a city dependent, like Venice, on the ebb and flow of commerce, merits further study. For a short moment in time the state of Nabatene held the lines of communication between East and West, and was a curious last refuge of Hellenistic civilization and art, until it succumbed to Rome in the second century A.D. Forgotten until the nineteenth century, Petra, its capital, has, under the British Mandate, achieved a new fame as a goal for tourists; yet its history is largely unwritten and its monuments uninterpreted.

Briefly follows a topographical sketch of the amazing mountain mass in which the Nabataean city lay hidden, with an indication of the number and situation of the monuments that remain. Later will be discussed the architecture, art, and religion of the Nabataeans. The research on which our interpretation is based, was started through the interest and generosity of Lord Melchett who financed our first exploration made in the spring of 1929.¹

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¹ We have to thank the Rev. Père H. Vincent, O.P., for kindly reading both these articles in manuscript and making suggestions.

CHAPTER I

THE TOPOGRAPHY OF PETRA

THE wealth and importance of the state of Nabatene in the first centuries B.C. and A.D. depended on control of the transit trade from the Far East after it had reached the coasts of Arabia. The Nabataean port of 'Aqaba, at the head of the Aelanitic gulf, an arm of the Red Sea, was a natural focus of trade-routes between Egypt and Babylonia, South Arabia and Syria. And since this roadstead offered no facilities for defence, the Nabataeans, for a time, by a highly evolved system of organization and policing, developed the natural advantages of Petra, 60 miles north, as a capital city and warehouse, and diverted all land traffic into it.

In the Edomite period, its semi-enclosed arena had been a refuge for men and flocks, as the surrounding cliffs and mountains are penetrated by narrow, deep, secluded gorges, forming natural hiding-places (Plan A). With the city's decline and disappearance, the site has assumed its original character as a sheepfold, with the additional advantage of the ancient monuments, whose deep-cut rooms make shelters, proved by the carpets of tough trodden manure covering the floors to-day.

In outline the cliff-enclosed site is roughly a parallelogram (Plan B), open to the south and north and framed on the east and west by mountain walls (Pl. I) about 300 metres high, separated unequally by a distance of never less than a thousand metres.¹ Its south-western corner is formed by and rests upon the free-standing rock-mass of el Ḥabīs (Pl. II). The south, north, and west sides were bounded by walls, with deep wādīs at their base, whilst the eastern limit is the high red cliff, cloven by the narrow passage of the Sīq. Seen from the air the city basin is lost as a patch of sand in a vast mass of rock. In truth the site is a trough with a spine-like ridge (Pl. II) in the middle, sloping from north-east to south-west its full length, and deeply penetrated in the southern half by wādīs running east to west, dividing the spine into a series of unequal ridges. Strabo described Petra, far from accurately, as 'lying on a site which is otherwise smooth and level, fortified by an encircling rock, the outside part precipitous and sheer, but the inside having cisterns in abundance, both for domestic purposes and for watering gardens' (Pl. I).² The only smooth and level part of appreciable extent lies north of Wādī Mūsa (Pl. I, Nos. 58-60); but seen from Jebel en Numeir, the eastern and western cliffs of el Khubtha and el Mu'eiṣra dominate the northern city area, suggesting the effect of a flattish

¹ The compass indications are conventional owing to the irregularity of the site.

² Strabo, xvi. 4. 21.

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site with 'an encircling rock' in spite of open country on the north and south (Pl. III).

To north-east and east lie the cretaceous bluffs of Jebel Sherra, spotted with sparse scrub, rising to the high plain of Trans-Jordan at an elevation of about 1,500 metres. The mountain mass of el Khubtha with Jebel Zibb 'Atuf forms the eastern city rampart. Centrally and into the rear of this great massif, cutting back into the Jebel Sherra, lies the Wādi Shu'b Qeis, running north and south, which forms a deep ditch below the Crusading castle of el U'eira (Pl. IV, 1). The Wādi Mūsa rises to the east with a spring, 'Ain Mūsa, at its head, giving the colloquial Arab name to the whole of Petra to-day. Half-way down its course is the village of Elji, also called Wādi Mūsa, with trees and terraces of barley irrigated from this spring, whilst such overflow as remains continues until lost in or on its way to the Sīq.

The waters from this spring of Moses, 'Ain Mūsa, supplemented by the rain-fall, have in the course of ages moulded the Petra site. To their slow confident action is due that mighty crevasse, the Sīq, their bed, forming the main entrance to the city from the east (Pl. IV, 2). Across the Petra basin they have gouged a deep, narrow channel through the central spine (Pl. V, 1); hollowed out the Siyāgh (Pl. V, 2), and by a falling tortuous constricted passage through the western mountains eventually reach the 'Araba. This watercourse draws off all other drainage from south, east, north, and north-west to join in its Siyāgh escape. Incidentally the main and subsidiary wādi bottoms were, and are now, the chief roads into and out of the city.

Umm el Biyāra.

The high isolated rock-mass of Umm el Biyāra (Pl. VI), with its flat top, steep cliffs and single, narrow, difficult approach (akin to neighbouring ancient fortresses with like characteristics, beloved of Semites, such as Meneiyya, el Buseira, Kerak, 'Ammān or Massada), was a natural acropolis, easily held by a few determined men, when supplied with the cisterns from which it takes its present Arab name, 'mother of cisterns'. But owing to the narrow limits of its flat summit, it was unsuitable as a more than temporary refuge in times of stress.

The Greek general and historian, Hieronymus of Cardia, in 312 B.C., wrote of this rock as 'extremely strong but without walls',¹ and almost in the words of Jeremiah's description of the nomad rule of the Rechabites,² told how the Nabataeans had a law 'neither to sow corn nor to plant fruit bearing plants, nor to use wine, nor to build a house'. It was in this nomad stage of their

¹ Diodorus Siculus, XIX. 94-7.

² Jeremiah XXXV. 6.

evolution that they occupied el Biyāra, the Edomite¹ Sela-Petra, the Rock. The first permanent inhabitants would have needed a more accessible dwelling-place, so a peace-time settlement at the foot of the acropolis is indicated as the next stage.

The Siyāgh.

Settled occupation was determined by two factors, security and water. The valley of the Siyāgh below el Ḥabīs is about 300 metres long and 50 wide on an average, lying between steep cliffs (Pl. VII, 1). On the north-west is an outlying flank of the Deir mountain, whilst to the south-east the massifs of el Biyāra and el Ḥabīs tower above the crevasse. In the Siyāgh is the better of the two springs near the city. The deep and narrow channel of the Wādi Kharrūbet Ibn Jureime, between Ḥabīs and Biyāra (Pl. VII, 2), is shut in by perpendicular cliffs. On the Biyāra side a high rock cutting in the cliff face, 3 metres wide by $2\frac{1}{2}$ deep, was made to receive the end of a wall (Pl. VIII, 1), whilst the opposite face, too, has been manipulated. Above, on the edge of the cliff under el Ḥabīs, are foundations of a tower (Pl. VIII, 2). It is suggested that here is the evidence for a fortified entrance, now destroyed, the road then, as to-day, lying in the wādi bed. From the tower above, a wall ran into el Ḥabīs (Pl. VIII, 2), and joined the southern wall at an angle (Pl. IX, 1), the fortress surmounting it being an integral part of the city's defences at this point.

Below the junction of the wādi with the Siyāgh, the cliffs are higher and perpendicular, seeming to end in a blind alley, blocked by a tall quarried escarpment to the north, at the right-angled turn where the Sidd Khureirīb 'Iyal 'Aude enters. At this point lie the foundations of a Nabataean fort (Pl. IX, 2), to guard against a possible attack from the west by way of the wādi bottom, which leads down into the 'Araba through impassable mountains. Not far below is the spring. The walls on all sides of this right-angled turn have been scarped to a considerable height for defence, and above the escarpment on the north is a large rock-cut cistern in a deep enclave. To mount from the 'Araba by this route was only possible for the audacious and lightly armed in limited numbers.

With the gorge blocked to the south between el Ḥabīs and the steep flank of el Biyāra, the lower exit of the Siyāgh fortified and held, the upper closed by a gate at its entrance,² and the whole commanded by the citadel of el Ḥabīs,

¹ The first pottery to be identified as Edomite Iron Age was found on the top of el Biyāra by the Melchett Expedition in 1929.

² This wādi is called the Siyāgh as far as the spring, its source, at the junction of Wādis Mu'eişra esh Sharqiye and Abu 'Ollēqa.

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we postulate a fortified enclosure, strong enough to withstand a siege; with a fairly ample and certain provision of water, impregnable against a raid unless surprised. Here could have been the nucleus from which the later walled city developed.

The Mu'eişra Ridge.

The Siyāgh was narrow and confined, shut off in large measure from the prevailing western wind, hot and airless in the torrid summer heat. A further growth of the primitive town may be sought nearby to the north, on the open descending tongue of rock (Pl. X), between the Wādis ed Deir, Mu'eişra esh Sharqiye and Siyāgh, with its adjoining spring. This is the Mu'eişra Ridge. A road deeply carved into the rock leads to terraces at various levels, into the flanks of which have been cut houses, some wholly carven, others half carved half built, whose fronts now strew the underlying slopes. At a later date graves were intruded into abandoned houses, the ridge now being but a mass of decayed and disconnected holes, the interiors carefully squared and tooled, similar in character and arrangement, allowing for the difference of situation, to those in the Siyāgh.

El Ḥabīs.

Expansion may be imagined as continuous and the acropolis, el Ḥabīs, the centre of divergence. Remnants of rooms carved into its eastern side are still visible, and, high up, fragmentary remains of decorative plaster show that the whole eastern face was once covered with dwellings several storeys high, built against the cliff. El Ḥabīs has two summits (Pl. I, 1), only the larger mass to the south being fortified. The whole, roughly triangular at its base, with precipitous faces on all sides, is about 100 metres high. Its southern end was extensively manipulated at the middle level and masses of rock, so weakened, have fallen away (Pl. XI, 1). From the east a wide stair led to the first level and another to the narrow gate of the citadel proper. To-day nothing of the Nabataean fortress remains though the top is strewn with Nabataean pottery. The ruins on the summit are of the Crusading castle of Sel¹ (Pl. XI, 2), with an outer and inner bailey, surmounted by a small square donjon with arrow shoots (Pl. XII, 1) in the east wall. The lower detached summit at the northern end has been extensively quarried and arranged with catchment channels leading to cisterns. These also exist within the fortress (Pl. XII, 2), whose building stones were taken from the Nabataean ruins, many of them showing typical Nabataean tooling (Pl. XVII, 3).

¹ Retaining the Edomite name for el Biyāra, 'Sela'.

*The walled town.*¹

Let us now examine in detail the site on which the walled town was placed, first surveying the natural form it has acquired from the water that pours across the trough, the outcrops of rock which break up its surface and the man-made changes adapting it to use by a large population. Wādis divide it into three principal areas. The southern portion is bounded by Wādi Mūsa on the north, and a high ridge on the south, parallel with its left bank, running from Jebel Zibb 'Atuf on the east to el Ḥabīs on the west (Plan B). Across the summit in the middle, at right angles from north to south, lies the dominant rock of Zanṭūr (Pl. XIII, 1 and Pl. I, 28), whose southern foot towers above the Wādi Farasa (Pl. I, 23). The rock, el Ḥabīs, formed the south-west angle of this settlement. The quarter north of Wādi Mūsa was bounded on the west by Wādi Abu 'Ollēqa, commonly called the Turkmaniye, whose left bank, rising abruptly, forms a high narrow ridge which falls steeply to the city on the east and is broken in the middle by the rock outcrop of Qabr Jumei'ān (Pl. II, 7). In the wādi below is a small brackish spring forming the source of the Sel es Siyāgh. Further east and parallel with the Wādi Abu 'Ollēqa runs the Wādi el Matāha (Pl. II, 14), dividing the northern area unequally into two, and joining Wādi Mūsa in the midst of the city. The walled and cliff-enclosed site is therefore uneven, interrupted, steep, and divided into regions by deep narrow watercourses. In so far as the ground has any covering it is of red sand, whilst the beds of the wādis are of yellowish sand strewn with limestone boulders washed down from the upper levels.

The oblong space east of el Ḥabīs, extending to the Theatre Ridge, with the rock Zanṭūr in the middle, and bounded on north and south by the Wādis Mūsa and Farasa respectively (Plan B) seems to have been occupied by the end of the fourth century B.C. Zanṭūr was surmounted by a large fortified building (Pl. XIII, 2). Its inhabitants developed an extensive rubbish dump, el Katūte (Pl. XIV, 1), to the south, from the bottom of which came Greek pottery of about 300 B.C. The southern city wall ran from el Ḥabīs to the southern end of Zanṭūr and continued to the cliff ramp²; but it is possible that the earliest walled town was half this size, enclosed on the east by a wall running north from Zanṭūr to Wādi Mūsa and following its left bank to the Siyāgh. This would have made a compact and defensible quarter dominated by el Ḥabīs and Zanṭūr, the two fortresses, and always in later developments an isolated part of the city.

¹ See Plan B.

² Brünnow and Domaszewski, *Die Provincia Arabia*, Vol. I, between Nos. 189 and 190.

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The west and north lines of the Nabataean wall can still be traced above ground. At the junction of Wādi Mūsa with the Siyāgh nothing remains but a conjectural fragment which later became a cistern (Pl. II. 3) fed by a channel¹ from the brackish spring below the Wādi Abu 'Ollēqa. It followed the top of the left bank of this wādi, mounted the slope to the rock, Qabr Jumei'ān, on which stood a large square tower, and continued north, with bastions at intervals, turning as the configuration of the ground required, until it reached the highest elevation in the north-western angle. This prominence, 'Arqūb el Hīshe, ends in a precipice, and the wall stopped against a remarkable circular foundation at the angle, whence it turned towards the east (Pl. II, 8 and Pl. XIV, 2). This circle² will be discussed in a later chapter, but it is well to note now that it constituted, at least in one phase in the development of the town wall, a strong circular angle tower, and had a long history as a sanctuary.

Below the summit of 'Arqūb el Hīshe on the east, the wall turned south-east towards the Wādi el Matāha, followed its steep right bank; crossed it and continued eastwards to the point of rock into which was carved the tomb of Sextus Florentinus, a Roman legate (Pl. I, 61, II, 13 and Pl. XV). Thence onward the eastern cliff, carved into a row of monumental tombs, fulfilled the function of a wall (Pl. XVI). In many places a few courses still crop out, but its proper definition requires extensive excavation, so far undertaken in part in the south. Near el Ḥabīs eleven courses of sandstone blocks, each half a metre high and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres long, stand revealed (Pl. XVII, 1). It was a curtain wall two metres thick, with square bastions at intervals and strong points as guard-rooms where high ground commanded a weak section. The whole was deliberately planned as a defensive work for the safety of a populous and wealthy city, profiting by the inequalities of the ground and the encircling cliffs. At the point of junction with the circle in the north-west angle, the top courses were probably destroyed (Pl. XIV, 2) in the second century A.D.; the discarded rubbish quickly levelling the western slope, since no sequence was observable in the pottery from the trench.

At an unknown date a second north and south wall, parallel with the first wall, ending at the Palace tomb, and enclosing a smaller area of the city, was hastily built of drums of columns and other miscellaneous material (Pl. XVII, 2).

The watercourses were canalized between high retaining walls (Pl. XVIII, 1 and 2) which have largely been destroyed, though remains are to be found in the deep upper wādis of en Naṣāra and el Matāha. When canalized the

¹ See sketch-plan of the Mu'eiṣra ridge in Chapter III.

² For a preliminary publication see W. F. Albright, 'The Excavation of the Conway High Place at Petra', *Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research*, No. 57, Feb. 1935.

river-beds were confined and deep, forming definite divisions on the north, between the city wards joined by bridges, abutments of which remain (Pl. XIX, 1). Nothing is visible of the connecting streets and stairs on the rising ground. That it had the formal layout, typical of the chess-board pattern of the Hellenistic city, is, owing to the irregular surface and abruptness of the ground, improbable, except in the central area, where the public monuments were situated on both banks of Wādi Mūsa. Such edifices also crowned the spine of the northern quarter, since a large drum of Egyptian granite lies half-way down the eastern slope of Qabr Jumei'ān, near its junction with the second town wall. Another lies on a height to the east of the large nymphaeum (Pl. I, 56 and Pl. XXVIII, 2).

The site of the southern city-gate at the end of Wādi Kharrūbet Ibn Jureime has been described. The north-west gate has vanished, but since the approach to it was from the north by the Wādi Abu 'Ollēqa, it lay near the junction of the three rivers. The eastern gate, at the entrance to the Sīq, presented an engineering problem, ingeniously solved.

The Sīq.

Without manipulation the narrow deep crevasse was, as it is to-day, a water-course to carry off the rainfall collected outside it in the basin of the surrounding hills. The Sīq has always been the only possible entrance to the city on this side; hence, to turn the water, its narrow mouth had to be blocked above the opening with a barrage about 4 metres high, on top of which were constructed the gate and defensive works.¹ All these have disappeared, save a few courses of the barrage on the south. To dispose of the waters, a tunnel and canals were constructed and cut through the rock at the back of el Khubtha, leading north to Sidd el Ma'ajin, a fissure in the face of this cliff and the issue for the combined waters of Wādis el Muzlim, Shu'b Qeis and el U'eira, whence they discharged into the upper reaches of the Matāha. In antiquity the Sidd el Ma'ajin was somehow drained and used as a nymphaeum, decorated with niches on both sides (Pl. XIX, 2).²

A high level road (Pl. XX, 1) followed the margin of the Sīq as far as the entrance of the cleft, under which the waters passed at right angles from the barrage to the tunnel (Pl. XX, 2) which still exists about a hundred metres away. Above it were carved the abutments (Pl. XXI, 1,2) for an arch (Pl. XXII)³ decorated with semi-columns and niches, which once spanned the

¹ See 'Der Zugang zum Wādi es-Sik' by W. Bachmann in Bachmann, Watzinger, Wiegand, *Petra (Wiss. Veröffenth. d. deutsch-türk. Denkmalschutz-Kommandos 3)* Berlin, 1921, pp. 4—7.

² See *Br. & Dom.*, No. 698 and Dalman, *Petra u. seine Felsheiligtümer*, Leipzig, 1908, Fig. 254.

³ See *Br. & Dom.* I, Fig. 251.

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cleft, a curiosity to travellers before its fall in 1896. Beyond it the road was an inclined plane, flattening out lower down, and paved the whole length of Wādī Mūsa as far as the Siyāgh and probably farther. Remains of pavement are visible at some points, in the Sīq (Pl. XXIII, 1) and in the centre of the city (Pl. XXIII, 2), hidden and displayed by the vagaries of floods.

Lower down the Sīq, at the one point where the mighty crevasse, about 300 metres deep, opens out (Pl. XXIV, 1), several chambers have been carved into each cliff face. Near road-level on the south is a conduit (Pl. XXIV, 2) carved in the rock and in places supported by masonry, whilst in the opposite cliff a chase was hollowed for an earthenware pipe, to bring into the town water collected in the many cisterns which caught it from the mountain mass above. This was a later construction, since at its lower end it has been let into the cornice of an earlier tomb;¹ it then ran at right angles above a still earlier triclinium, and around three sides of a free standing tomb,² after which its course can no longer be followed. Stress must be laid on the large number of cisterns which supplemented the meagre water supply from the two small springs on the site, and the flow which came from distant 'Ain Mūsa. These are found in every part of the cliffs surrounding the city; and the intensity of the effort to this end indicates the size of the population. The luxury of the bath seems to have been limited to the one known establishment near the Triple gate.³

On its discharge from the dark Sīq the road passed the most perfect monument of Petra, the glowing blood-red Khazne (Pl. XXV, 1), the tomb of a Nabataean king. Continuing through a tomb area (Pl. XXV, 2) it reached the large theatre (Pl. XXVI), carved into a descending spur of Jebel Zibb 'Atuf, (the Theatre Ridge) which destroyed part of an older necropolis. The top row of violated tomb chambers shows above it as a line of gaping holes and in what was once a narrow gorge, behind the semicircular auditorium, are façades of the original small pylon tombs.

El Khubtha.

Facing the theatre, on the opposite bank, in the cliff bordering the wādī, were carved fine houses and tombs (Pl. XXVII),⁴ the latter belonging to a later phase, as indicated by an unfinished tomb façade between the houses in the third tier.⁵ In the topmost row several large scale tombs were never finished (Pl. I, 51),⁶ and behind and parallel with them, filling a long cleft in the rock

¹ *Br. & Dom.*, No. 825.

² *Ibid.*, No. 824. See the two tombs on extreme right of Pl. XXVII.

³ Wiegand, *Petra*, pp. 45-8 (Cf. Pl. I, 16).

⁴ See also *Br. & Dom.* I, Fig. 459.

⁵ *Br. & Dom.*, No. 786.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Nos. 807 and 780. This has two small entrance doors not part of the original design.

running in front of el Khubtha, is the largest reservoir within the enclosed city (Pl. I, 52).¹ To the north a staircase, near a smaller reservoir, leads steeply down by several right-angled turns to a platform (Pl. I, 54),² on to which opened houses south and west.

The whole of the eastern cliff is carved into a row of great tomb façades in an unbroken line leading to the colossal so-called 'Palace' tomb (Pl. XVI). These were the funerary monuments of Nabataean royalty. The chambers further north carved into the flank of el Khubtha, were houses forming part of the extra-mural suburb of en Naṣāra (Pl. XXVIII, 1).³ High up along the cliff-face a rock-cut conduit collected the rain water for storage in cisterns below. This suburb was an expansion of the residential area at a time when the town wall had fallen into disuse, perhaps, as Strabo says, 'because of peace'. Across the Matāha, where the cliff towers up to the north, is a necropolis⁴ (Pl. II, 10), containing the only tomb with a frieze of classic trophies.

The Main Street.

Beyond the large theatre Wādi Mūsa turns west and was canalized between the great monuments of the city (planned by Wiegand) (Plan B).⁵ At the large nymphaeum (Pl. XXVIII, 2) the road forked on the left bank, running parallel at a higher level with that in the wādi bed. This upper road likewise was paved (Pl. XXIX, 1) and from it were approached all the buildings and the great 'markets' (Pl. I, 27, 29, 30) which have been carved out of the upper slope, reached by wide flights of steps. Further on, a Triple gate spans the road, leading to a long piazza, paved with large sandstone blocks (Pl. XXIX, 2), once with a colonnade on either side. At the end of this was the entrance to the temenos of the Qaṣr el Bint Far'ōn (Pl. XXX, 1) which closed the vista. This temple and temenos encroached on the earlier settlement that had clung to the eastern flank of el Ḥabīs. The road in the wādi bed ran through a tunnel for some distance before reaching the Siyāgh and on its steeply sloping right bank⁶ were first the small theatre, the nymphaeum, and a series of buildings leading to the 'palace' and 'gymnasium',⁷ partly constructed over the tunnel. The 'gymnasium' was gained by a door lying outside the Triple gate.

¹ Behind the tomb of Shaqilat. See Pl. XXVII. Laborde, *Voyage de l'Arabie Pétrée*, Pl. 49, shows a rock-cut stair leading to this.

² *Br. & Dom.*, Nos. 772 and 774. A fountain basin is in a deep recess to the east of No. 775.

³ See also *Br. & Dom.* I, Pl. XVIII, Nos. 719-59 and Pl. XVII, Nos. 697-725.

⁴ *Br. & Dom.* I, Pl. XVII, Nos. 651-77.

⁵ Wiegand, *Petra*, Fig. 1, and *Br. and Dom.* I, Pl. XII.

⁶ Pl. I, 55, 35, 26, 25.

⁷ Cf. Wiegand, *Petra*, Figs. 58 and 60.

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So far as surface observation can detect, the part of the city just described was the only area subjected to a formal and carefully planned layout. In its ruined condition, except for the Triple gate and the temple beyond, nothing remains standing. The surviving architectural fragments, the elaboration of the ornament, and the richness of the materials employed, granite, marble, and alabaster, indicate that all these buildings were not a whit inferior in planning or detail to the Khazne or the Qaşr el Bint Far'ōn.

On the higher ground suburbs were occupied by those who could escape in summer from the broiling city enclosed within incandescent rock.

The Deir Suburb.

From the supposed site of the north-west gate opens the Wādi ed Deir, at whose upper end a pathway mounts in the bed of the watercourse, eased in steep places by flights of steps (Pl. XXX, 2), to a high plateau in the western mountains, bounded on one face by precipices (Pl. XXXI, 1) and on the other by inaccessible cliffs. Deep below is the sandy plain of the 'Araba, and on the horizon the stark and barren hills of Southern Palestine. Into the mountain mass was carved the vast façade of a temple (Pl. XXXI, 2), and there are other monumental foundations in the open, and houses cut into the cliffs. A spring near the top of the defile¹ gave a water supply, further supplemented by cisterns. Two small defensive posts (Pl. XXXII, 1) to the north-west guarded the Wādi Mirwān, the inaccessibility of the situation allowing the place to be held by a minimum guard.

Suburb of el Madras.

Outside the Sīq is the small suburb of el Madras, consisting entirely of houses;² and on top of the southern col over which the road passes to the 'Araba, Palestine, and Egypt, by way of the Wādi Kharrūbet Ibn Jureime, was a comparatively level extension of the city with tower tombs to east and west (Pl. XXXII, 2). This quarter had its importance in antiquity as a point of arrival and departure for the great caravans carrying merchandise to the ports of the Mediterranean (Pl. XXXIII).

El Baiḍa and El Bārid.

Its pendant on the north was the high white sandstone plateau of el Baiḍa (Pl. XXXIV, 1), reached from the Wādi Abu 'Ollēqa after an hour's ride uphill.³ Here was an extensive settlement of rock-cut houses, cisterns, caravan-serais and tombs (Pl. XXXIV, 2), with a long, narrow crevasse to the west,

¹ The Qaṭṭar ed Deir. Pl. LXVII, 1.

² *Br. & Dom.* I, pp. 209-14.

³ Outside Plan A. See Index Map to Air Plane Survey in Kennedy, *Petra*, p. 18.

the Sīq el Bārid, shut in by a barred gate (Pl. XXXV, 1) This fastness has been artificially widened, lined on both sides by houses, store-rooms, and cisterns (Pl. XXXVI, 1), and closed to the west by an ascending flight of rock-cut steps (Pl. XXXV, 2). On the northern road a short distance beyond it a large rock-bound enclave contains foundations of what may once have been caravanserais.¹ The track continues to the 'Araba via the Namāla Pass; and a branch from the main road to Petra, skirting the foot of the eastern bluffs, led to the village of Elji, passing the fortress of el U'eira.

Jebel Zibb 'Atuf.

All these suburbs were no doubt outposts of defence, since as early as 312 B.C. the Nabataeans had placed sentinels on the hills surrounding Petra to give warning of an approaching Greek enemy.² Nearer the city small forts on the weak points of the encircling rock linked up with the guarding town walls. The most important was Qaṣr el Qantara, on Jebel Zibb 'Atuf (Pl. XXXVI, 2), separated by the Sīq from el Khubtha, and famous for the 'Great High Place' on its flattened summit, a bone of contention between students of Semitic religions. South of this precinct stand the ruins of four small towers or bastions, about 4 metres square, once joined by curtain walls, now a glacis of fallen stones (Pl. XXXVII).³ The masonry has the typical Nabataean pick dressing. The great rock massif, on which the two eastern towers rest, was scarped to a perpendicular face, from the height of the top of the two rough obelisks, which stand like sentinels on a quarried down platform divided from the cliff by a wide quarried ditch (Pl. XXXVIII, 1). As the 'High Place', inside the curtain wall, is invisible from the platform and a long way off, a connexion between it and the obelisks is far from certain. These seem to have been marks left by the quarry men and are found in other quarries.⁴

Protected by towers, curtain wall, and precipices, the garrison lived on the east side of the mountain, between the 'High Place' and the Wādi Mahāfir, where are remains of catchment channels leading to cisterns and much Nabataean pottery. The south-east quarter of the town was connected with this outpost by flights of steps which met on a terrace⁵ on its northern flank and

¹ See *Br. & Dom.* I, Pl. XX, No. 843.

² *Diodorus Siculus*, XIX, 94-7.

³ For plan see Dalman, *Neue Petra-Forschungen*, Leipzig, 1912, Fig. 4.

⁴ A quarried, almost completely free-standing obelisk is to be seen in a cemetery, a mile out of 'Ammān, east of the road to Madeba.

⁵ In front of *Br. & Dom.*, No. 225. The main staircase descended from *Br.* 225, by wide steps, to the upper line of graves near the Snake shrine (Pl. I, 43), and between *Br.* 223 and 224 straight down to the east side of *Br.* 188 (Pl. I, 42) within the town wall. A fork of it came down over *Br.* 184 (Pl. I, 46) and another from the top of the theatre (near *Br.* 170) to the ground between *Br.* 174 and 179.

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continued to the top in one wide and monumental stair. Three other routes ascend to the top of Jebel Zibb 'Atuf from different points; the one commonly used to-day, starting from the source of the east Farasa Wādi; another from Khirbet en Numeir;¹ and another from the theatre by way of the Wādi Mahāfir (Pl. XXXVI, 2). Parallel rock chasms to the east of the 'High Place' within the fortification of the curtain wall have their ends blocked to form open reservoirs, and further north a large circular cistern is sunk in the ground.

A western way to the fort started outside the wall by a wide flight of steps² which, turning at right angles, entered a cleft between two tombs,³ parallel with the east Farasa Wādi, and arrived at the top by a gate between two towers (Pl. XXXVIII, 2). These gave sufficient protection, since the western cliff in other places is unscalable. Long ago Musil, in a note furnished to Brünnow⁴ stated that these fortifications were no Crusaders' castle but a look-out to survey the approaches from the south. The fortress on Zibb 'Atuf was in fact an integral and necessary part of the Nabataean defences, since from the south this mountain has easy communication with the open country behind Wādis el Jarra and Hureimiye. Still further south, between the suburb of el Madras, and the copper and iron mining town of Sabra, were the look-out posts of Emun and Dbel, to signal the approach of travellers from the desert.⁵

Jebel en Numeir.

The southern bell-shaped mountain, en Numeir (Pl. I, 39), commanding the roads from Egypt and Palestine via the 'Araba, which enter by the Wādi Magharriq, has a more extensive view to north and south than Jebel Zibb 'Atuf, and by signal was in direct visual relation with its fort. A great flight of about eight hundred steps (Pl. XXXIX), leads to the summit from the wādi of the same name; its ascent broken by two terraces strewn with typical Nabataean pottery. At the start of the stair from the upper terrace, carved into the rock wall in low relief, is a little figure of a soldier,⁶ and, higher up, a small rock-carved guard-room opposite a cistern. On the restricted top no building remains; but the prow of the platform at its highest elevation has channels for draining rain water into a nearby vaulted reservoir.

The long cliff-frontage of el Khubtha was the eastern look-out, reached

¹ Described by Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, pp. 176-7.

² Near *Br. & Dom.*, No. 190.

³ *Ibid.*, Nos. 226 and 227.

⁴ *Ibid.*, II, p. 329.

⁵ See Musil, *Edom*, I, pp. 128-131, for the outer defences of Petra.

⁶ See Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 131.

from the city by an inclined plane¹ and three separate staircases.² At its highest point a small flight of steps leads to a flattened look-out ledge. Remains of a rock-cut house (Pl. I, 63), a watch-tower, and a large reservoir (Pl. XLI, 2) are near its northern end, and the rest of the mountain top was sparsely if at all occupied.

El U'eira.

On the east the precipitous rock mass of el Khubtha is separated by the cleft of el Muzlim from the mountain of er Ramla; and that again by the ravine of Shu'b Qeis from the low rock on which stands the Castle of el U'eira. A Nabataean aqueduct, following the right bank of the Shu'b Qeis near its junction with the Matāha, carried off the water in its season to the fissure el Ma'ajin.³

The castle of el U'eira (Pl. XL), sentinel on the road from el Bārid to the village of Elji, does not owe its origin to the Crusades, though remade and strengthened at that time with walls and ditches cut down into the solid rock. Inside it are many Nabataean dressed stones and a fragment of a capital; also sherds of the usual native pottery; whilst rock-stairs (Pl. XLI, 1) and cisterns owe their origin to the Nabataeans, enlarged and made over by the Franks. The two Crusading castles in such close proximity, in the 'Vallis Moysi',⁴ though small and poor in construction, indicate that even in the Middle Ages Petra had not quite lost importance as a focus of routes; and that 'artificiality of diversion' to this impregnable fortress had something of the natural in it and was not due entirely to the astuteness of the ancient rulers of a forgotten Arab people.

¹ Above the Sextus Florentinus tomb.

² One to the left of the Palace Tomb, and two on the right of the Tomb of the Urn.

³ Musil, *Edom*, I, Figs. 20 and 21.

⁴ William of Tyre. *Historia Rerum XVII*, Cap. 6, Anno 1144, quoted in Kennedy. *Petra*, p. 37.

CHAPTER II

HOUSES

ALL the rock-carved monuments at Petra with architectural façades, whether in oriental pylon form or modified by classicism, were, without exception, tombs or chambers forming part of a complex of buildings connected with the cult of the dead. These imposing fronts monopolized the view of early students of Petra; and the encircling cliffs, precipitous and sheer, in whose clefts and valleys the majority are carved, were explored and the results catalogued, described, and numbered on plans by Brünnow and Domaszewski in their monumental work *Die Provincia Arabia*. Assuming that the many rows of open caves throughout the area were of natural origin, they thought that all houses as well as public buildings had been in the destroyed stone-built city. To-day we know that in a similar geological region at Rumm, 60 miles south and sparsely inhabited by the Nabataeans, caverns are absent. Moreover, at 'Irāq el Amīr, near 'Ammān, bordering on the Nabataean state, Tobiah, Ptolemy Philadelphus's governor of Philadelphia in the third century B.C. created the still existing 'caves of many furlongs in length, by hollowing out a rock that was over against him; and then he made large rooms in it, some for feasting and some for sleeping and living in. But still he made the entrances at the mouth of the caves so narrow, that no more than one person could enter by them at once'.¹

Lines of cavities in the cliffs at Petra, a few with narrow doors like those at 'Irāq el Amīr, were marked on Brünnow's plans 'destroyed tombs'.² A superficial inspection confirms this view, for in some are the graves of many dead; but on careful scrutiny whole rows can be identified as designed for the living, their squared interiors showing traces of domestic arrangement, adapted to the climate, with decorations of refinement. Instead of the yawning holes and piles of fallen stones now found in all the housing areas, the cliffs were clothed with well-built walls, which disguised their now gaping interiors, and gave the appearance of a normal city, with buildings, several storeys high, like those in South Arabia,³ set in rising terraces.

The eastern face of el Ḥabīs was a storeyed wall of houses on four tiers (Pl. XLII, 1), with one later intruded tomb (*ibid.*, on extreme left), whose top

¹ See Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, XII. 4. 11, and Vincent, 'La famille des Tobiades et les origines du palais d' 'Arāq el-Ēmīr' in 'La Palestine dans les papyrus ptolémaïques de Gerza', *Revue Biblique*, 1920, pp. 182-202.

² *Br. & Dom.* I. See Pl. VII, p. 256, where the bottom rows beneath tombs 785-93 were mostly houses.

³ See Freya Stark, *The Southern Gates of Arabia*. A town in the Wādi Do'an, p. 129.

only has been cut, and which would, if finished, have incorporated a large existing house at ground level. This cliff wall and its underlying land had a long history as a housing area; for above the columbarium (Pl. I, 6), in its turn used as a house, is a piece of stucco (Pl. XLIII, 2), clinging high to the rock face, which once formed part of the interior back wall of a room in a house of several storeys, built against and cut into the cliff. On the left is the outline of another belonging to the same dwelling, also with a fragment of stucco decoration; but when this house had ceased to be, a new chamber was hewn from its left side.

The upper rock-cut road (in front of a large house seen in Pl. XLII, 1 on extreme right) continues around the northern end of el Ḥabīs, with a parapet in places, hugging the cliff edge high above the Siyāgh bed (Pl. XLIII, 1); beneath it, streets carved in the rock gave access to houses at various levels (Pl. XLII, 2). Opposite, a high terrace, at right angles to the wādi, had two niches cut in its flank once framing betyls of Dushara (Pl. XLIV, 1); for the Nabataeans were very religious and surrounded themselves at home and abroad with the symbols of their god. Dalman was the first to study these plain chambers, enumerating the Dushara betyls, and in his encyclopaedic book on rock sanctuaries, unwittingly produced an invaluable guide to rock houses.

These in antiquity were naturally few compared with the stone-built. Strabo, whose friend Athenodorus, tutor to Augustus, had been at Petra, recounts how the Nabataean 'houses through the use of stone are costly'.¹ But of these not even the plan of one has as yet been recovered, although their form can be reconstructed from certain rock-hewn examples of more than one storey. Since the shape of such a house was dependent on the formation of the available cliff, a rigid classification of types is impossible. In a general way Petra should be envisaged as a Semitic Pompeii in which the houses were influenced by Hellenism in form and decoration.

At its rudest, a rock dwelling consisted of a single chamber. The large house comprised several in a row, with doors cut through from room to room or communicating separately from a terrace in front. Each house had its own cistern.

On the north side of the Siyāgh, approached by the terrace with Dushara niches, and recognizable by a talus of sand in front, is a house of three small rooms (Pl. XLIV, 2). The removal of half a metre of deposit in the main room displayed the white lime plaster still on its walls. A cupboard in the rock on the left, 0.50 m. deep, has traces of ledges for shelves. The curious bracketed recess cut into the rear wall to a depth of 0.80 m., is a frequent feature in

¹ Strabo, XVI, 4, 26.

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Petra houses, with two and sometimes three square-cut depressions at the top, in their decay resembling horns. The two principal chambers in a five-roomed house have two such similar recesses in each, on adjoining walls, the largest measuring 3.25 m. by 2.20 m. That house, in its main lines, stands to-day as originally planned, proving that the strange cuttings were domestic

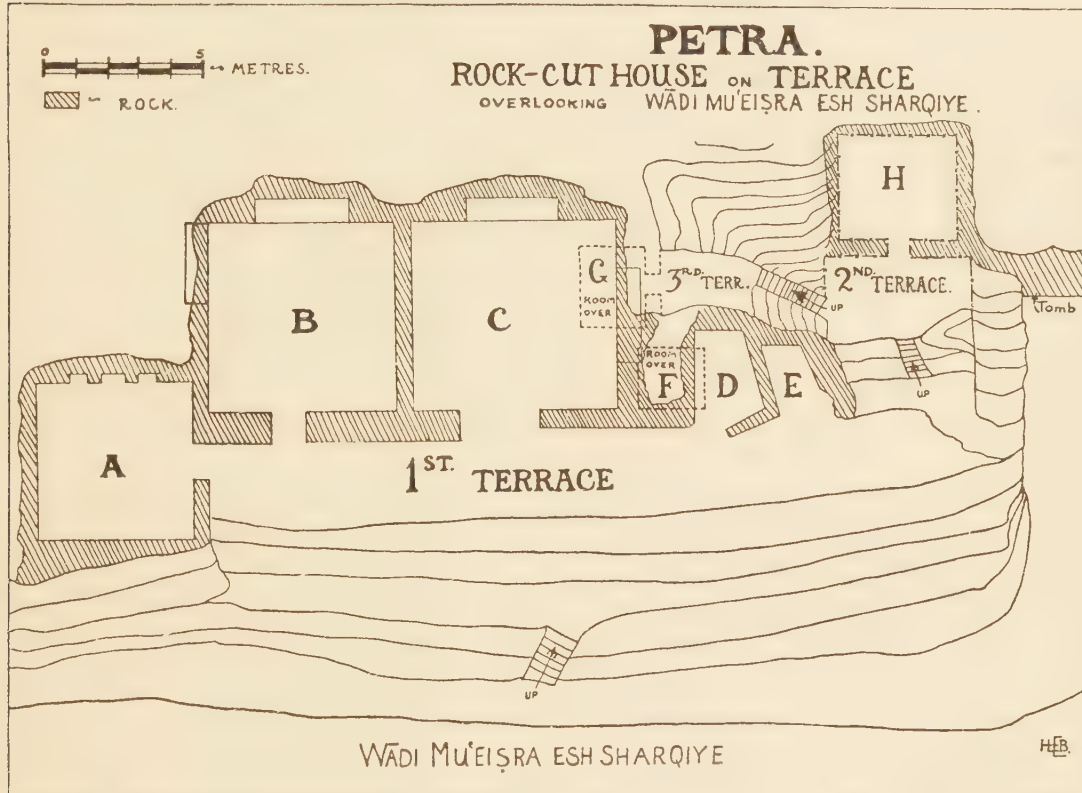


FIG. 1.

adjuncts, with no funereal or religious significance. We may assume a Nabataean form of cupboard, once arranged with inset mouldings, corresponding to the great wardrobe, of the first century A.D., like a safe in the wall, found in the *tablinum* of the House of Menander at Pompeii.¹

The five-roomed house, mentioned above, opens on to a terrace 30 metres long and is carved out of a high mass of red sandstone overlooking the Wādi Mu'eişra esh Sharqiye from the east² (Pl. XLV, 1; and Fig. 1). The rooms

¹ See Armedio Maiuri, *La Casa del Menandro e il suo tesoro di argenteria*, 1933, Pl. I (Plan), no. 10; Text, p. 55, Fig. 20.

² This terrace house is below *Br. & Dom. I*, Nos. 613, 614, 615, seen on the skyline in Pl. XLV, 1.

are bare save for three oblong niches in the back wall of room 'A' and the furniture pieces already mentioned in 'B' and 'C'. A broad flight of rock-cut steps mounted from the direction of the wādi to the terrace. A mezzanine chamber 'F' has been hacked out of the rock above 'D', probably at a later period. Access to an upper room 'H' with a window over the door was given by a narrow rock stair, and at a higher level still is a small blocked-up entrance to another room 'G' that belonged to the original house.

In a line with it lower down the hill, beyond an open court, a row of eight badly-weathered rock-chambers likewise open side by side on to a wider terrace (Pl. XLV, 2). To-day the back walls of three of these have tomb loculi hacked into them. That these tombs or houses were originally higher, is witnessed by the projecting foundations, on the upper end of the terrace, of rock-cut side walls of a deep and therefore tall cut-back into the once high but now planed-down massif above. The disappearance of these walls, and the almost complete disintegration of the façades, postulates a long history. The present crumbling ruins may have begun as pylon tombs or as a line of houses resembling the planned one at the end of the row, which has kept its mountain crown.

That house, primarily a chain of rooms linked together by a terrace, was little more than a row of caves; and the two detached chambers above, with their stairs, followed the shape of the rock and were in no sense an upper floor. The next development in plan was to join superimposed rock rooms by flights of rock steps, making a house of two or more storeys. An example in its simplest form is on the north side of the Siyāgh near its opening (Pl. XLVI, 1) next to another elaborated on the same model. This larger house (Pl. XLVI, 2, 3) is remarkable for the mass of building stone, its erstwhile façade lying on the steep slope below. The open front is seen in section with rooms spaced at irregular intervals, like a cave complex (Pl. XLVI, 3 and Fig. 2), perhaps re-using earlier chambers. Among the debris was a slab of white crystalline limestone, the remnant of a floor paving.

Room 'A' on the top level, deeply hewn into the rock, may have been a cistern. In 'B' and 'C' the partition wall is just indicated, and each had its typical two niches. On the left wall of 'C' are remains of the original ground of pink plaster floated with a coating of white. Room 'D' is a triclinium with the left jamb of the door *in situ*, and in it an intrusive grave and the beginnings of cuttings for another. 'E' has fragments of fine painted plaster on all its walls; the ground is white, with remains of greyish-black in places. The smoke-blackened stucco ceiling, largely preserved, has a circular moulded central roundel. Overlooking the Siyāgh in front, a line of building stone

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in situ probably belonged to a transformation of the house, at a time when beam holes were made in the walls, showing that it was divided into two storeys.

Better preserved is the semi-storey below, the staircase to which has fallen away. The central rooms 'F' and 'G', are two storeys high with the doorway almost complete from 'F' into 'G'. Both jambs of 'G' retain their original

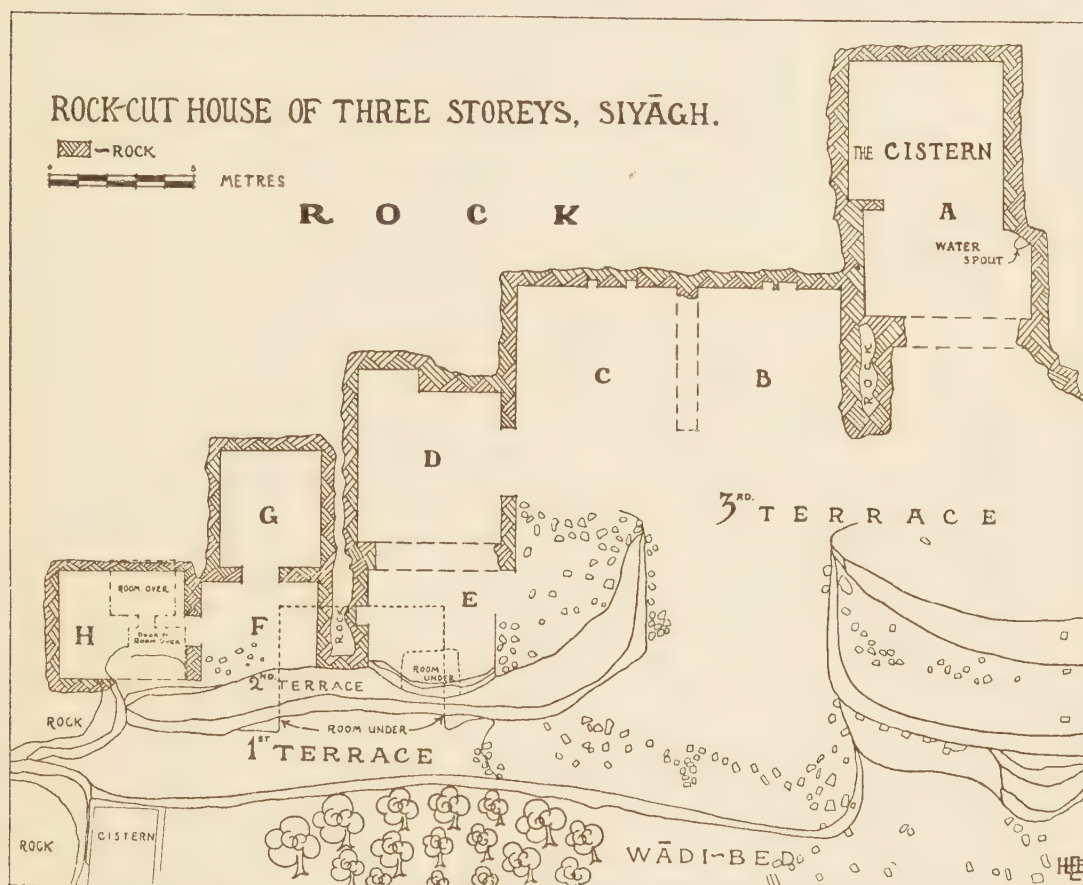


FIG. 2.

highly-finished surface with a rebate for the door and bolt holes. A room below 'F' and one over 'H' are now inaccessible.

The feature in this house which removes it from the 'cave' category is the hollowing out of 'G' behind 'F', so that the back wall of 'G' is 9 metres behind the rock face. A further development on these lines can be seen in a house in the middle of the second tier of chambers in the cliff opposite the large theatre (Pl. XLVII, 1 and Fig. 3), which has six rock-cut rooms on the upper floor communicating with a central hall, the back wall of the inmost

room 'B' being 20 metres within the rock face (Pl. XLVII, 2). The front, originally built on, has fallen away. A vaulted ceiling with the broken remains on plaster of small painted arches in black and red, covers 'F' (Pl.

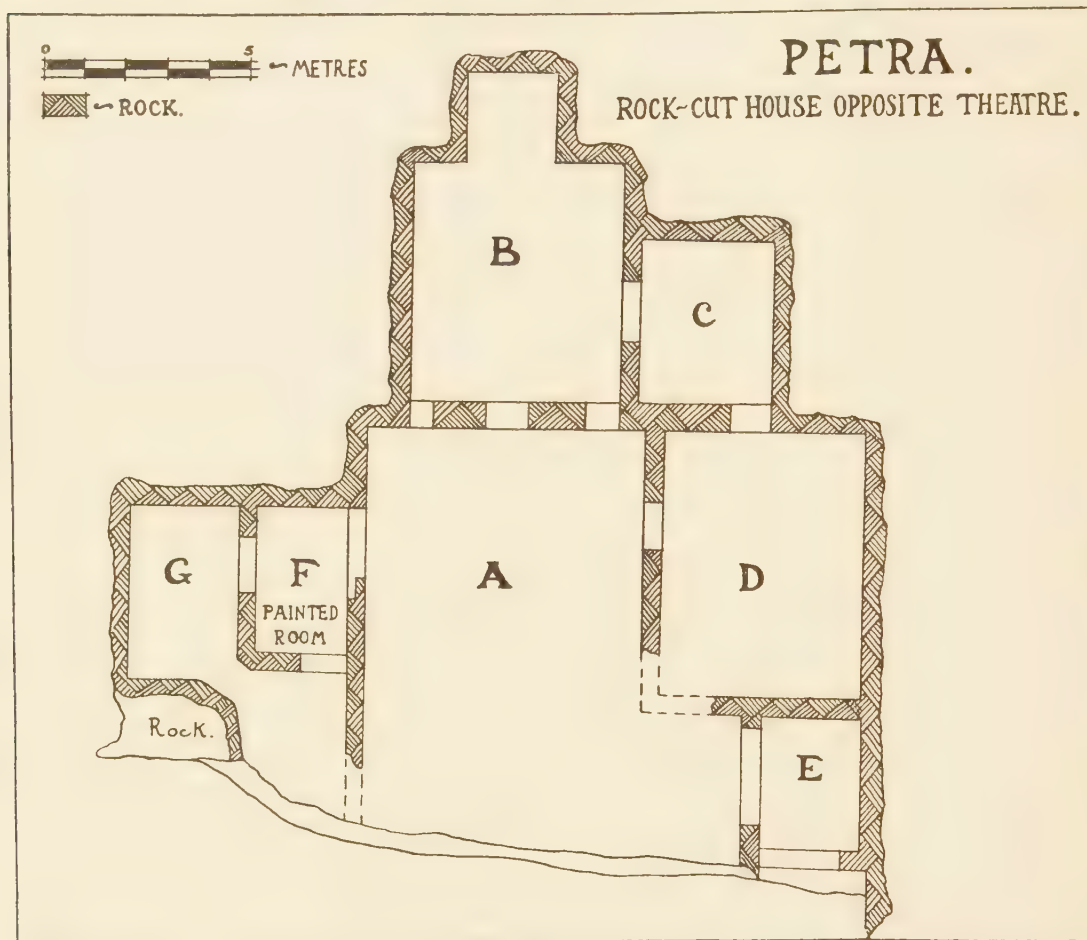


FIG. 3.

XLVIII, 1). The central door to 'B' had an inserted lintel with a window above, its position marked now by the hole in the right jamb. A worn-down stair on the right leads from ground-level to the upper tier and the chambers below need not necessarily have belonged to the same dwelling.

The planning of six rooms around a hall imitated a stone-built house. A smaller one resembling it in type and probably in date is the 'Painted House' in the north face of the Sîq el Bârid planned by Dalman as a sanctuary; and adjoining it on the left a flight of steps leads to what was once another of similar plan; but both floors have been cut back, leaving only the alcove

upstairs and shallow outlines of the rooms below. (Pl. XLVIII, 2, and Fig. 4).¹ At the foot of a flight of stairs in the 'Painted House' are two connecting rooms, with remains of another beyond the stair (856, 855, 854). This stair ascends to a platform, and at the top the rock has been cut back, forming a wide shelf. In the angle a channel from high up conducted the water into a small settling tank (*g*) below the shelf, and over the stair room to the storage cisterns below the steps. The tiniest Dushara betyl known, about 3 cm. high, is carved on the side of the door, near the tank (*f*).

The front was flattened, leaving a slight overhang of rough rock. The jambs of the central doorway have a rebate on the outside (Pl. XLVIII, 2), for some sort of screen of wood (as it is too small for a stone one), whilst the upper windows were filled in the same manner. Inside, a low platform runs around two sides of the room, making a biclinium, and an arch in the back wall opens into a deep recess (Pl. XLIX, 1) which corresponds with the much larger one in the six-roomed house already described, leading out of a somewhat similar hall. The biclinium exhibits a complete example of the elaborate type of tooling employed at Petra on rock walls of houses and important tombs. The pattern of incised lines, at an angle of approximately 45 degrees, is finished by a narrow band of horizontal tooling, while on the ceiling itself the lines run at right angles to the band (Pl. XLIX, 2). The tooling is as regular as though it were itself the decoration, and not a key for plaster.

The back wall was moulded in low relief in stucco panels, painted yellow to imitate masonry, with incised joints coloured red to differentiate the stones. This First or Incrustation style of Pompeii, better named by Rostovtzeff the Hellenistic Structural style,² flourished throughout the Hellenistic world, and the House of the Trident at Delos of the second century B.C., shows a close parallel to the painting of the upper courses in this room.³ Similar decorative joints can be seen in stucco high up on the east face of el Ḥabīs.⁴

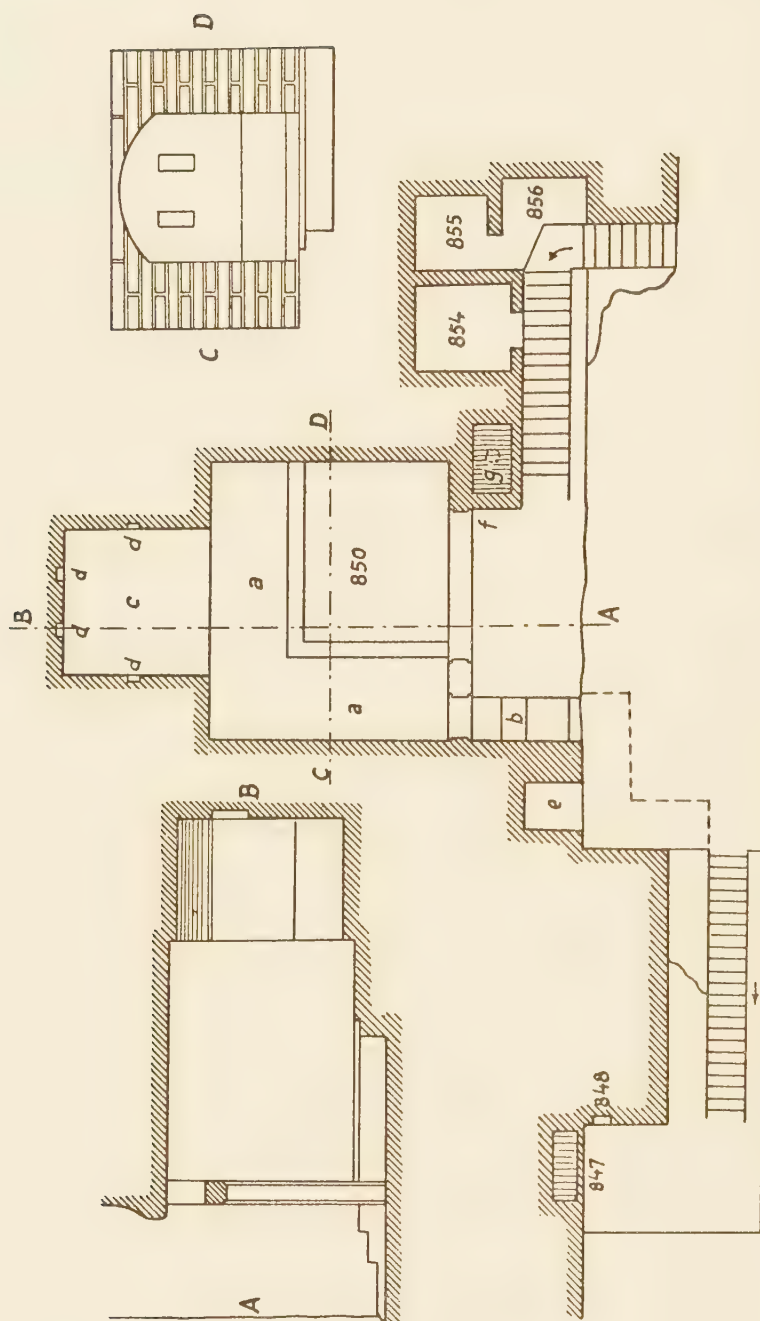
In the recess remains of a delicately moulded white stucco cornice frame the painted vault, which in its blackened decay from the smoke of Bedouin fires may yet yield a clue to the date of a Nabataean house. The central medallion has been torn out, but branches of vine loaded with ripe grapes, tendrils of creeping *convolvulus*, and sprays of *bignonia grandiflora* heavy with blossom, whose curves in profile are fuller than in life, clothe the sides

¹ Fig. 4, from Dalman. *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 317.

² Rostovtzeff, 'Ancient Decorative Wall Painting', in *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 150.

³ See M. Marcel Bulard, 'Peintures Murales et Mosaïques de Delos', in *Mon. Piot.* XIV, Fig. 38.

⁴ Not visible in Pl. XLIII, 2.



with tapestry imitation of a trellis (Pl. L).¹ Exquisite birds drawn in profile fill the interstices; Pan sits in space flute-playing and Eros draws his bow. The leaves and flowers are as closely studied as the more formalized plants of botanical accuracy in the *hortus inclusus* of the House of Livia *ad Gallinas albas* at Prima Porta,² a Roman painting made for Livia's father about 38 B.C.,³ towards the close of the period of the Second or Architectural Romano-Campanian style.

This Second style and the Third or Tapestry style overlapping it in Rome were described by Vitruvius in a book published between 40 and 28 B.C.⁴ The former he praised as strong and true, but disdained the new mode in which 'a small and pliant stalk carries a sitting figure, and half figures and flowers at the same time spring out of roots and stalks. And yet the public, so far from discouraging these falsehoods, are delighted with them, not for a moment considering whether such things could exist'.⁵ The upper limit of date of this publication proves that the Third style was introduced into Rome soon after 30 B.C. From it developed the attenuated tendrils in circles with small cupids, *putti*, and birds playing among plants and blossoms, that in Rome decorated the vaults of columbaria during the reign of Tiberius⁶ and were a feature of the Fourth Pompeian style.⁷

The provenance of the Tapestry mode was oriental, for outside Italy, in place of the Architectural style, the Hellenistic structural decoration of walls was directly followed by a naturalistic flower style and a floral carpet style derived from a Ptolemaic revival of Egyptian eighteenth dynasty decorative art.⁸ The earliest example of the former cited by Rostovtzeff is the painted vault of Zaizeva at Kertch, South Russia, of the Augustan period, which though coarse and provincial in comparison with the el Bārid painting is allied to it in scheme.⁹ Earlier still at Pompeii, in a house of the First style (ending there about 70 B.C.) a frieze on an incrustation wall was painted in monochrome with 'flowers strewn in full disorder on the surface, mixed up with plants, birds, and garlands';¹⁰ the very words used by Rostovtzeff to describe the Flower style.¹¹

¹ Abel, *Revue Biblique*, 1906, pp. 589 and 43 a. ² *Ant. Denkmäler*, I, Pl. 11 (in colour).

³ Eugénie Strong, 'Art of the Augustan Age, in the *Cambridge Ancient History*, X, p. 566.

⁴ R. P. Hinks, *Catalogue of Greek, Etruscan, and Roman Paintings in the British Museum*, 1933, pp. xxv sqq. ⁵ Vitruvius, VII, 5.

⁶ F. G. Newton, 'The Columbarium of Pomponius Hylas', in *Papers, British School at Rome*, V, 1910, pp. 461 sqq.

⁷ Ludwig Curtius, *Die Wandmalerei Pompejis*, 1929, Fig. 121, Casa del Centenario; and Fig. 108, House of Joseph II. ⁸ Rostovtzeff, *JHS* XXXIX, p. 162. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Fig. 2.

¹⁰ Pompeii, VI. 9. 3. See F. Wirth, 'Der Stil der kampanischen Wandgemälde im Verhältnis zur Wanddekoration', in *Röm. Mitt.*, XLII, 1927, p. 2, Beilage 1.

¹¹ Rostovtzeff, *loc. cit.*, p. 161.

The 'Painted House' preserves what may be an actual example of the eastern floral tapestry that inspired the Third style. At Delos structural wall decoration was waning by 69 B.C., the date of the second destruction of the town; and since Petra's close trade connexions with Alexandria and Syria in the first century B.C. kept her in touch with every change, the house of a rich merchant in the fastness of el Bārid could have been painted in the new floral fashion between 69 B.C. and the appearance of the Tapestry style in Rome not more than forty years later.

The pilaster capitals of the door in the 'Painted House' are visible from the side in Plate LI, 1,¹ and closely resemble those framing the entrances to two great chambers across the way (Pl. LI, 2),² warehouses perhaps, belonging to the owner of the house. As the Siq at this point is its full width, the line of pilasters indicates the original appearance of a rock-cut street front, probably typical of others in Petra, hewn out of the softer red sandstone and now worn away.

On the height of el Mu'eişra, above the Wādi esh Sharqiye, are examples of free-standing houses in two storeys carved from separate masses of sandstone,³ and ruined by earthquakes. One, seen in section (Pl. LII), the front wall on both floors having fallen away, had an upper room decorated with oblong niches. A steep stair on the left,⁴ by a right-angled turn, leads to the roof, in which channels, which misled Dalman, have been cut to carry rain-water into a cistern. This is no domestic roof sanctuary, but a catchment area,⁵ and what appears to be a Dushara betyl on the ground floor in a niche with an architectural frame, is the weathered surface of the rock. On the top of el Khubtha a free-standing, almost destroyed rock house (Pl. LIII, 2),⁶ connected with the look-out, was of similar type. These shallow niches were a common form of decoration in rock houses as they are in Arab homes to-day. In a two-storeyed dwelling so decorated on the south side of the Siyāgh (jutting out at right-angles from the end of its three superimposed streets⁷), the whole front has fallen off leaving one of the niches face upwards on the ground.⁸ Others are intact in a room in the east flank of Jebel Zibb 'Atuf (Pl. LIII, 1 and Pl. I, 42),⁹ and there are four in the recess of the Painted House.

Carved out of the hard white sandstone of the Deir massif near the approach

¹ Taken from inside the biclinium. See the left jamb.

² Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 315, No. 841. See Chapter I, Pl. XXXVI, 1.

³ *Br. & Dom.* I, Nos. 613, 614, 615. See massifs on sky-line, Pl. XLV, 1 and 2.

⁴ See Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 231.

⁵ Dalman, *ibid.*, pp. 285-7.

⁶ See Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 301. It adjoins No. 768.

⁷ Kennedy, *Petra*, Fig. 143. It is just outside Pl. XLII, 2, on the right.

⁸ Kennedy, *Petra*, Fig. 146. He mistook it for a rock grave.

⁹ *Br. & Dom.* I, No. 188.

to the temple, is a well-preserved house of several rooms also of the free-standing type (Fig. 5).¹ A few steps lead to room (g) 3.50 × 3.25 m., which once had a lower ground floor, unlit and only 2 m. high. The ceiling is divided into panels in a chequer-board design (Pl. LIV, 1) differentiated by the horizontal and vertical parallel incised lines in alternate panels, imitating one of wood.² There was a large room next door (f) and an outdoor triclinium, on an isolated knoll of rock approached by stairs.³ The tooling of all these rooms is Nabataean; but the house was occupied for centuries, as a Nestorian cross cut into the typical Nabataean plaster outside room (g), to the right of the door (Pl. LIII, 3), and another on the jamb leading from (i) to (h), prove that hermits inhabited it in the Byzantine period. They plastered the small rooms, (i) and (h), in a coarser manner, and carved a Greek cross in the Byzantine plaster to the left of the door leading from (h) to (g). Similar ones are painted in red on the inner walls of a hermitage, high up in the opposite cliff overlooking the road leading to the Deir, whose small rock-cut chambers, once Nabataean too, retain their built-up stone façade on the east side (Pl. LIV, 2).⁴ A low gallery in the rock leads from a round inner room into what was once a small triclinium.

Room (f) (Pl. LV, 2) of the Nabataean house just described, had a big window over the door, separated by an inserted lintel. This arrangement was usual in Petra and a typical Nabataean feature elsewhere, common too in the later stone buildings in the Haurān. It arose as a practical device in a high rock-cut chamber, the window representing the hole through which the workmen removed the debris when hewing out the upper part. Since all chambers were carved from the top downwards, hole and doorway were one while the work was in progress, as they still are in their ruin, and the lintel was set in later as a separate block of stone. Disregarding the Khazne, one lintel only, and that probably not original, has been observed in position at Petra in a house in the Deir suburb (Pl. LV, 3)⁵ of two rooms, (g)⁶ and (b), on an upper level. The walls in (g) are well tooled with a horizontal border of wide incised lines joining the ceiling. A cupboard-shaped cutting (c), reaching almost to the floor in (b), has a shallow incised decorative panel on each side and in the central wall another (f). The staircase leads to the usual catchment area on the roof.

¹ Fig. 5, from Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 204, pp. 259–62. Published as a sanctuary.

² See *Revue Biblique*, 1936, p. 78, Fig. 7.

³ Dalman, *ibid.*, Fig. 196, No. 442, a, b, c, d, e. *Ibid.*, Fig. 197, pp. 256–9, is also a house.

⁴ *Br. & Dom.* I, No. 460.

⁵ See Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 206, No. 506, for position, and *Neue Petra-Forschungen*, Fig. 17, for plan. Published as a sanctuary.

⁶ Letters in brackets refer to Dalman's plan, q.v.

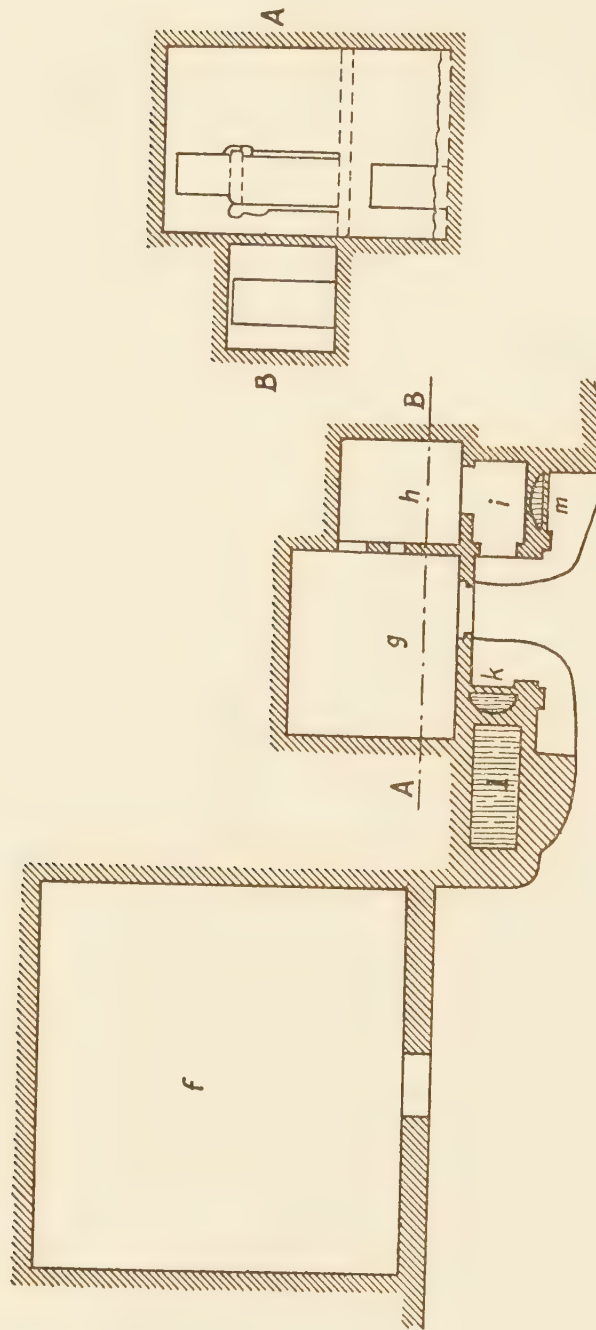


FIG. 5. Nabataean house occupied by hermits. (From Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, p. 261.)

SELA-PETRA, THE ROCK, OF EDOM AND NABATENE

An uncommonly high doorway gave access to a rock-hewn house on the first terrace of el Biyāra (Pl. LV, 1),¹ whose door jambs measure 4 m. and carried pilasters, 1.25 m. high, supporting the lintel below a high window deeply splayed to admit the maximum of light. The graves in the room beyond are intrusive.

Different in type from any other at Petra is an isolated house carved in the north end of the east face of el Ḥabīs (Pl. I, 2, Pl. LVI, 1, and Fig. 6). A high door in the middle, with two windows on either hand, the heads of all being level, reached to within a few centimetres of the ceiling. Inside, the long hall is divided into three sections (Pl. LVI, 2), and to the central part belong two windows and the door. Two wing walls break out of the living rock, on the left, shutting off a window, whilst at the other end the second window lights a small room at a higher level. To the left of the door an opening was cut through at a later date. The walls show no sign of decoration, and how the upper chamber was reached is unknown. Like all domestic windows at Petra, the plain square openings have a rebate to house a frame for shutters or a grille of some kind, essential in a hot climate. The excavated Ptolemaic houses in Hermopolis of the second and third centuries B.C. had window grilles of plaster,² and a fragment of a stone one found in the Siyāgh (Pl. LVII, 1)³ suggests the common lattice pattern of wood.

In plan this house is a rock-cut parallel to the stone-built Nabataean houses in the Syrian Ḥaurān, of all dates from the first to the seventh centuries A.D., since in that region there was no break in continuity between Nabataean, Roman, and Christian building. There the roof and central rooms, which ran the whole height of the house, were supported by stone arches, unnecessary in the Petra rock-hewn specimen. The exteriors, some contemporary with Petra and doubtless similar, 'were severe and forbidding in the extreme . . . and for plainness not unlike the street fronts of English and American city houses of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. . . . Stucco on the outside, and several coats of plaster within, gave a finish to these buildings which the present appearance of their ruins would hardly suggest'.⁴ Two Petra tombs⁵ retain fragments of a fine exterior coating of stucco picked

¹ For position of terrace see Pl. I, 19; *Br. & Dom. I*, Fig. 113, opposite Nos. 355 and 356. For position of house, see Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 166, No. 358. (*Br. & Dom.* call el Biyāra el Ḥabīs.)

² Found by the Egyptian University of Cairo's excavations in 1931.

³ Found in a tomb in the Siyāgh with a fragment of a blown glass bottle of the first century A.D.

⁴ See H. C. Butler, 'Umm idj-Djimāl', p. 194, of *Syria. Publications of the Princeton University Archaeological Expedition*, Division II, Architecture, Section A, Part III.

⁵ *Br. & Dom. I*, Nos. 524 and 676.

out in colour like those in the Ḥaurān, and this Petra house must have been finished in the same way. An undatable rock-carved columbarium, el Mu'allāqa,¹ off the road from Wādī Sīr to 'Iraq el Amīr, has horizontal grilles in its windows cut out of living rock; and a deep cavetto cornice, like those on

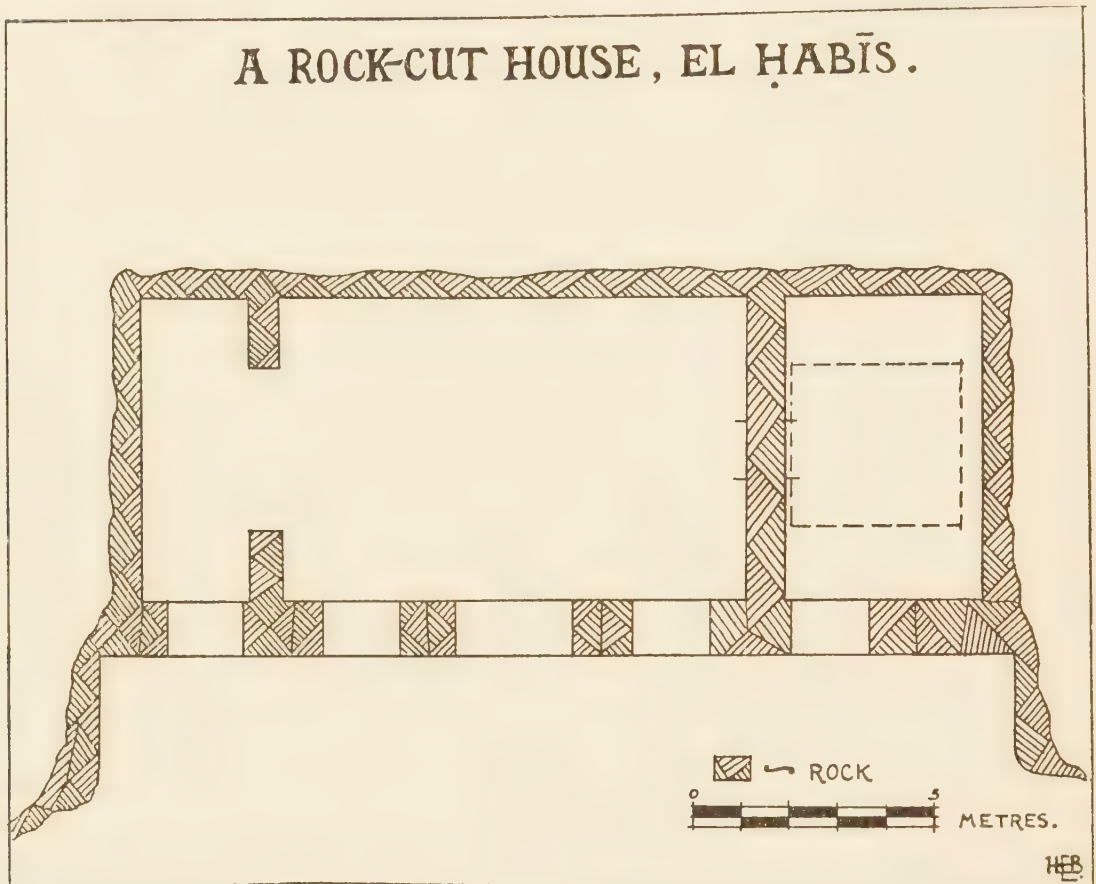


FIG. 6.

pylon tombs, finishes it off. This remarkable small monument, dignified and simple, gives some idea of the probable aspect of the Ḥaurān type of house when first erected.

In the only instance at Petra where a rock house façade has been protected from the weather the same stark modern quality arrests the eye. Carved low down in the side of the deep gorge of Wādī el Hureimiye where it narrows to a few metres, this house is to-day still further shut in by a large fall of rock

¹ H. C. Butler, 'Ammonitis', *loc. cit.*, Division III, Section A, Part I, Ill. 20, p. 30.

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opposite the entrance (Pl. LVII, 2 and Fig 7).¹ The upper windows, one on each side of the door, have splays which seem to be useless as they do not admit extra light (Pl. LVII, 3). Undatable Nabataean inscriptions are scratched on the plastered walls of the one deep room, approximately 7·50 m.

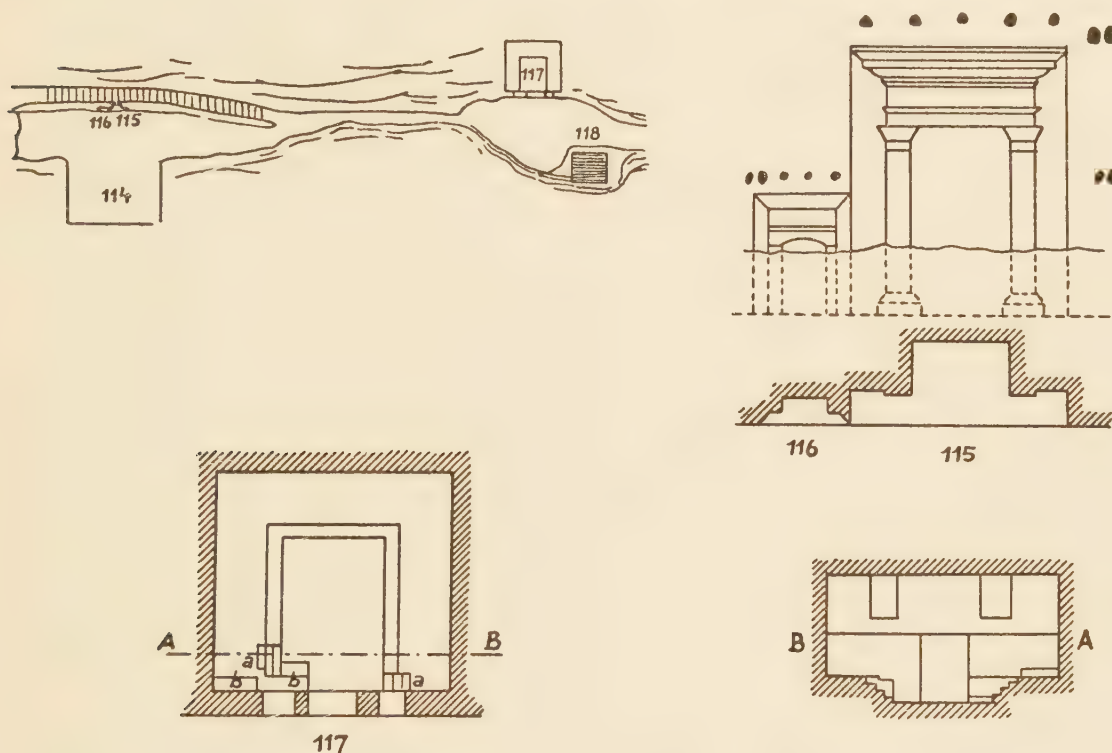


FIG. 7. Dalman's 'Klammheiligtum'. (From Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, p. 138.)

square. The lack of ornament and the shape of the openings are reminiscent of a flat house front in an eighteenth-century street. In the opposite cliff is a cistern,² and higher up, where the gorge widens to 10 m., a large rock-cut hall³ has a well-preserved pilastered niche,⁴ perhaps a domestic shrine corresponding to the Roman lararium. This chamber, with the one below it, may have formed a single house complex, chosen for its cool sombreness as a summer retreat. The lower part of the gorge debouches not far from the Khazne, but is now unapproachable in that direction, and communicates at the back by an open plain with the country suburb of el Madras.

The chamber within this stark façade is a Hellenistic triclinium or oriental

¹ Fig. 7, No. 117, from Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, p. 138. Published as a sanctuary.

² Dalman, *ibid.*, No. 118.

³ *Ibid.*, No. 114.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Nos. 115, 116.

liwān; a rare feature in the houses already dealt with, of small size, and unimportant in the plan. We will now investigate a different class of house, centred around this room of peculiar form, which to-day survives only in the East.

*Triclinia*¹

The prophet Amos, in the eighth century B.C., foretold 'Woe to them . . . that lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall'.² The Israelites sat while eating,³ and the fashion of dining on couches at Jezebel's cosmopolitan court of Samaria, which called forth this denunciation, was probably copied from Syria. The custom spread throughout the Greek world and at Alexandria in the third century B.C., in the time of Ptolemy Philadelphos, the house of Diotimos had a drawing-room called the ἐπτόκλινος or room of seven couches.⁴ The Seleucid Philhellene king, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, gave public banquets in the second century B.C., 'at which couches were prepared, sometimes for a thousand and sometimes for 1,500 with the utmost splendour and costliness. . . . At the feasts also he stood himself at the entrance and admitted some and assigned others their places; he personally ushered in the servants bringing the dishes; and, walking about among the company, sometimes sat down and sometimes lay down on the couches'.⁵

Vitruvius wrote on the Roman triclinia or dining-halls in a book dedicated to Augustus. In proportion they were twice as long as broad, and half as high as their inclusive length and width.⁶ There were small triclinia for every day and great halls for banquets. The Roman house had three; one for the summer facing north; one for the spring and autumn facing east, and one for the winter facing west.⁷ That the Nabataeans in the Hellenistic period should have evolved a local form of triclinium based perhaps on the Alexandrian type is natural. Strabo, who knew about Petra from hearsay, says they prepared common meals together in groups of thirteen persons and had two girl singers for each banquet.⁸ The word τρίκλινος, from θάλαμος τρίκλινος or 'room of three couches', is still to be seen on the outside of two Syrian houses of the fifth century A.D. in the Ḥaurān.⁹

¹ See 'Triclinium und Triklinon' in Franz Studniczka, 'Das Symposion Ptolemaios' II.', pp. 133-52, in *Abhandlungen der Philologisch-Historischen Klasse der Königlich Sächsischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften*, Vol. 30, 1915.

² Amos vi. 4-6.

³ Gen. xxvii. 19; 1 Sam. xx. 5, 24; 1 Kings xiii. 20.

⁴ Naphtali Lewis, 'New Light on the Greek house from the Zenon Papyri', in *American Journal of Archaeology*, 1933, p. 398.

⁵ Polybius, 31, 4. Shuckburgh's translation.

⁶ Vitruvius, VI. 3, 5.

⁷ Vitruvius, VI. 3, 6.

⁸ Strabo, XVI, 4, 26.

⁹ H. C. Butler, *loc. cit.*, Division II, Section A, Part II, pp. 121-2.

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And here a problem arises, for a triclinium was not only a domestic living and dining-room, but used on the anniversaries of the dead for a commemorative meal near the tomb, and for sacrificial feasts at a sanctuary. All three categories of triclinia should be found at Petra, and as in some cases these are hard to differentiate, we must first consider a triclinium which undoubtedly formed part of the largest surviving house in the city.

This mansion (Fig. 8),¹ in the middle of the suburb of en Naṣāra, is carved in the rock at the bottom of a cliff and from the outside looks like a collection of holes (Pl. LVIII, 1). Staircases lead from ground-level to a platform on to which two great chambers (Fig. 8, 684, and 682) open. One of these is a huge triclinium with a central door (Pl. LIX, 1) and five windows. Inside (Pl. LVIII, 2) it measures 12.00 × 11.50 m. and is about 10 m. high; wider by far than the proportions laid down by Vitruvius and even larger than the οἶκος in the House of Consul Attalos at Pergamon remodelled inside in the second century A.D.² A rock-cut step, covered with carpets, mattresses, and cushions, runs around its three sides, on which people sat or reclined for meals, each with a table at his elbow;³ slept at night and whiled away the tedium of hot days. A recess in each triclinium held the bedding as in an Arab house to-day. The two side windows gave a pleasant and necessary movement of the air, at a low level, and a view without. This type of room to-day is the reception room, the liwān of the oriental house, in which men foregather for conversation and coffee-drinking where western custom has not introduced chairs.

On the edge of the *kline*, on each side of a hollowed-out seat in the top step,⁴ is engraved near the ground the owner's name in Greek characters, 'Dorotheos'. Three lines of holes in the back wall indicate some form of attached decoration. The smaller triclinium next door may have accommodated the women, for presumably those of the upper classes had a less restricted freedom than is their usual fate in the Orient, since the Nabataean queens reigned conjointly with their husbands.⁵ Room 685 has a hole in the roof and was at some period used as a cistern. A staircase (Pl. LIX, 2) ascends

¹ Fig. 8, from Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 276. See *ibid.*, Figs. 277-82. Published as a sanctuary. *Br. & Dom.*, No. 717.

² Studniczka, 'Das Symposion Ptolemaios' II', Fig. 41.

³ Compare Grotta del Triclinio, Cervetri. See Dennis, *Cities of Etruria*, II, pp. 33-4 and note 1 in 'Everyman's Library' edition.

⁴ The seat can be seen on the right in Pl. LVIII, 2. Uncovered in 1936 by the Department of Antiquities, Trans-Jordan.

⁵ There is a second century A.D. description of a wedding feast in a large triclinium of this type, where the men were placed opposite the ladies on each long side. Lucian, *A Feast of Lapithae*, 8, 38; translated by H. W. Fowler, Vol. IV, Clarendon Press, 1905.

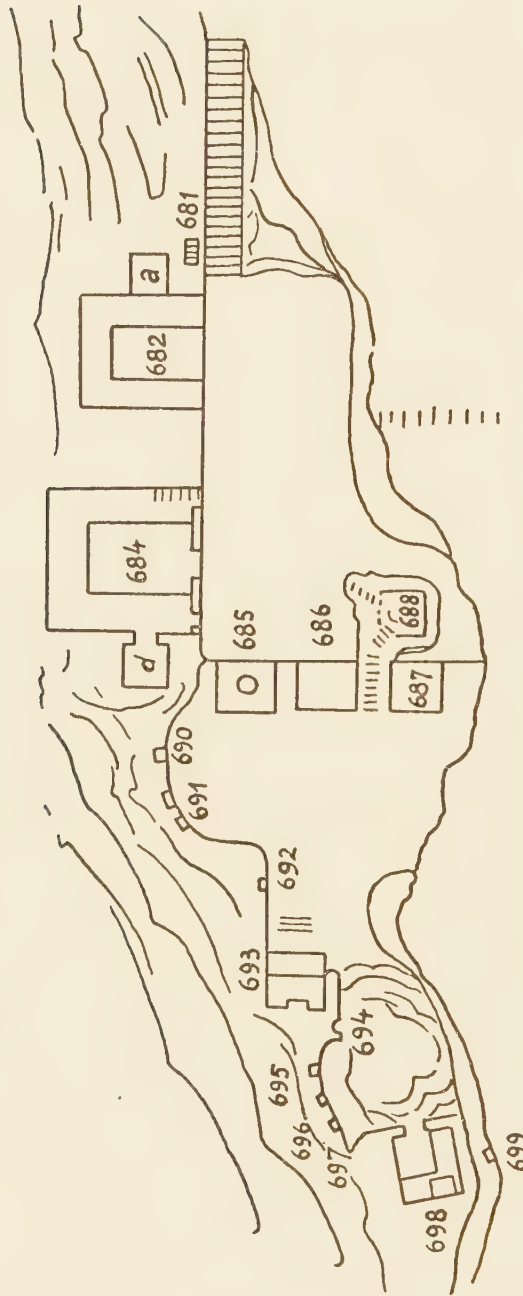


FIG. 8. 'Dorotheos' house. (From Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, p. 316.)

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between 688 and 686 to an upper terrace, where is an open recess (693), with a square block of shaped stone in the middle, and a Dushara betyl in relief on the step (Pl. LIX, 3). On a third terrace are a number of other betyls and altars in relief, and a round niche (694) enclosing 'Dushara's throne' (Pl. LX, 1).

Strabo, writing about A.D. 23, said that the Nabataeans worshipped the sun (identified by them with Dushara), setting up an altar on the house top, pouring libations on it daily, and burning frankincense.¹ Here on this upper terrace is a tangible proof of his veracity. Though the owner had a Greek name he worshipped the age-old Semitic sacred stones and must have been a Nabataean. We should like to know more of this man Dorotheos. Was he perhaps 'Wahbullāhi' (the Nabataean word for 'gift of god'),² 'the caravan-leader, son of Zaidān', who put up a niche beside an inscription saying: 'these are the symbols of el 'Uzza and the "master of the house"'³ (Dushara)? This niche, now empty, is on the very top of el Khubtha,⁴ where it was visible from the main north way up the mountain, starting from the Florentinus Tomb not far from the 'Dorotheos' house.

The next house on the south consists of a good small triclinium, opening through a door with a window above it, all part of the living rock, on to a platform approached by a flight of steps which mounted to a cistern on a higher level. Its owner, of a similar turn of mind to Dorotheos, carved a Dushara niche and two altars in the court (Pl. LXI, 2).⁵ Houses⁶ continued to the north, cut out of the cliff face, till tombs mark the end of the city in that direction. No other area in Petra is so unmistakably residential.

Comparable in scale with the great triclinium first mentioned is a higher chamber⁷ in the theatre mountain, facing el Biyāra and near rubbish dump C. Its façade has one square door 4.50 m. wide with a floor window on either side (Pl. LX, 2), and over the door a window 3 m. by 4, lighting a room about 12 m. high (Pl. LXI, 1). This window bottom is splayed and a rebate has been cut on the outside of the jamb, in which a wooden frame with a lattice was once fitted. A triclinium step may be buried beneath the thick deposit on the floor.

The rear wall is divided into four panels and the side walls into five by a

¹ Strabo, XVI, 4, 26.

² Dalman, *Neue Petra-Forschungen*, p. 108.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 46, Figs. 42-3. For inscription see *ibid.*, p. 96, inscription No. 85.

⁴ For position see *ibid.*, p. 46, note 2, and *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 301, No. 771.

⁵ *Br. & Dom.* I, Nos. 722-3, and Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Figs. 283 and 284.

⁶ *Br. & Dom.* I, No. 712: Dalman, *ibid.*, Fig. 275; *Br. & Dom.* I, Nos. 706-11: Dalman, *ibid.*, p. 315; *Br. & Dom.* I, Nos. 703-5: Dalman, *ibid.*, Fig. 274.

⁷ Pl. I, 46, and *Br. & Dom.* I, No. 184.

series of holes that once held in place a *placage* of marble or limestone. The horizontal lines of holes indicate a cornice and the perpendicular lines, pilasters or dividing strips; whilst the general surface of the wall was plastered and painted, possibly in imitation of marble. No other room in the city gives clearer indications of the elaborate schemes of applied decoration employed by its richer citizens on flat wall surfaces. This room and the large underground cistern next it on the right, eighteen steps below ground-level, seem to have been carved from two pylon tombs. The chamber, projecting at right angles, still faintly shows two rows of crenellations (Pl. LX, 2). These three monumental rooms opened on to a court. If the original walled city first ended at Zanṭūr, as was suggested in Chapter I, a tomb area in this face of the theatre mountain, then outside the wall, might have served that early settlement. And when the wall was continued to butt into the side of the theatre mountain, the older tombs embraced within the city may have been turned into houses.

Another tall converted tomb is in the east Farasa wādi (Pl. LXII, 1)¹ in the middle of the tomb area. Traces of the façade are faintly visible, and the great door and windows hewn out of the front must have been made when it was adapted for habitation. There is one intrusive loculus in the back of the single square chamber.

Above the Wādi Abu 'Ollēqa, high up on a platform jutting out from the quarried flanks of the Mu'eisra mountain, are two complexes of rock chambers (Pl. X), irregularly surrounding open courts, which belong in a class by themselves, and have been published by Dalman as sanctuaries. In the middle of the court of the one to the south (Pl. LXII, 2 and Fig. 9)² there is indeed a substantial flight of rock steps leading to what may well be a worn-down betyl of Dushara (*k*) (Pl. LXII, 3). The whole block measures 3.00 × 3.50 m. including the base. But on the evidence of Strabo, this object can be interpreted as a domestic Dushara oratory, placed in the middle of a courtyard rather than on the roof of a house. Beside it a triclinium (*h*),³ approached by three steps, occupies its usual position in a sanctuary of Dushara in conjunction with a Dushara betyl. Opposite, a covered winter triclinium (*r*), faces west. Two small triclinia face east, one by the entrance staircase, roofed, 2 × 1.20 m. (526), and the other on an upper terrace (*x*)⁴, for use in spring and autumn when it was agreeable to sit out of doors (Pl. LXIII, 1). A room in the court,

¹ *Br. & Dom.* I, No. 197.

² Fig. 9, from Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 234; *Br. & Dom.*, No. 623.

³ See Pl. LXII, 2, in foreground on right.

⁴ A Cypriote model of a rock-cut triclinium shows a family reclining on ledges raised slightly above the floor of a room smaller than (*x*). Studniczka, 'Das Symposion Ptolemaios' II', Fig. 39.

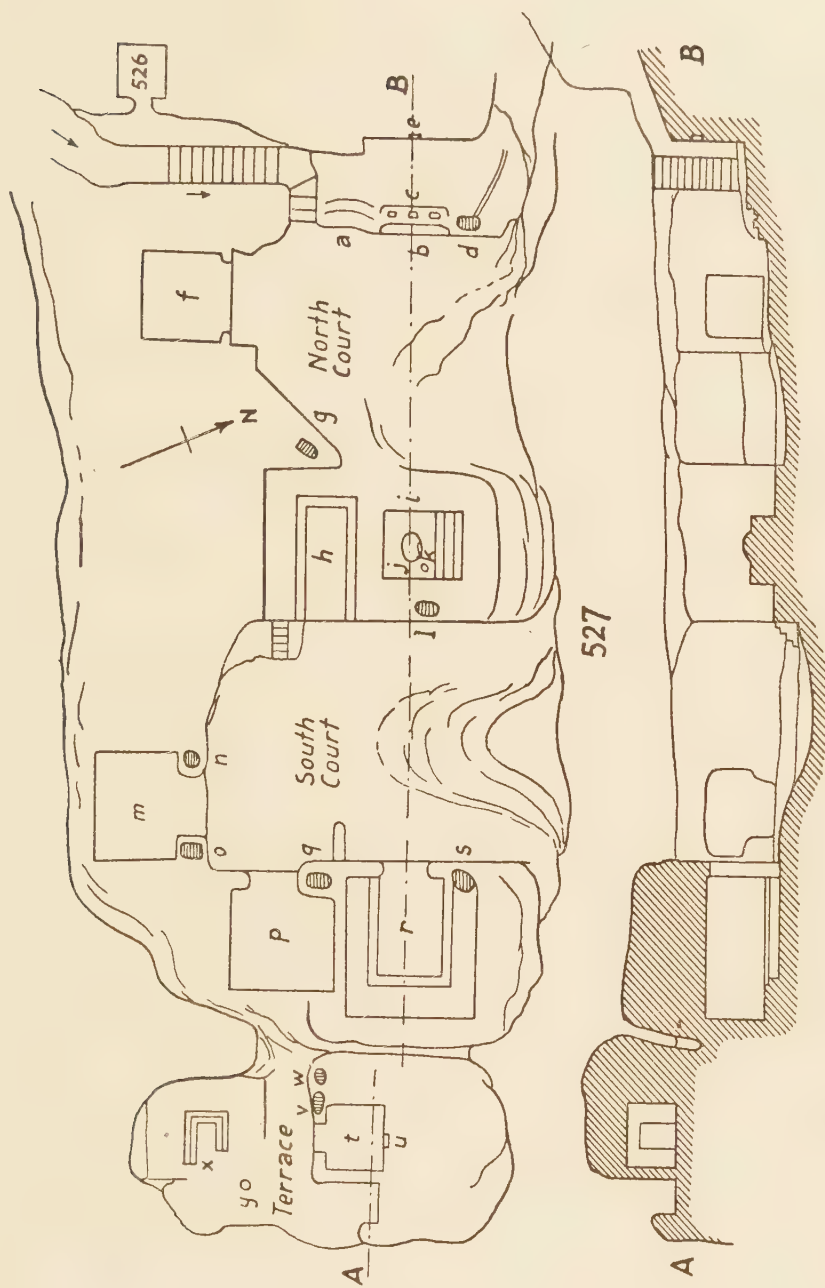


FIG. 9. Courtyard house on el Mu'eişra. (From Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, p. 290.)

facing north (*m*), was the summer chamber. Water basins were conveniently placed outside (*n, o, q, s*). The lay-out was adapted to the natural configuration of the rocks and would have made a roomy and attractive dwelling in an airy position, where, according to the season, both breezes or shelter might be obtained. The other courtyard complex (Fig. 10)¹ on a lower level to the north, has a large triclinium (*m*), once roofed, facing east, and an open one (*b*) overlooking the city (Pl. LXIII, 2) and the Palace tomb.

In the suburb of el Madras, a collection of small and well-preserved houses² in a hard white sandstone outcrop is reached by several tracks to the east outside the entrance to the Sîq. To-day the feliaḥîn women from Elji use the suburb to breath the air (*shemmet harwa*) since the site is open to the steady flow of the west wind, with an unimpeded view of Jebel Hārūn. Water is plentiful as an elaborate system was planned for collecting it into cisterns and ornamental basins. Five of these surround an outside triclinium under an overhanging rock (Pl. LXIV, 2),³ facing north and pleasantly shaded. One chamber in the same massif has a Nabataean inscription dated either 70 B.C. or 17 A.D.⁴

Two staircases lead from the out-door triclinium into the south court⁵ where two large living chambers are cut into the opposite wall; one a triclinium with a door and two windows (Pl. LXIV, 1)⁶ and graffiti on its walls in Greek and Nabataean. The low side windows with sills, on a level with the liwān step, are shaded, in place of a grille, by side-curtains of rock cut out of the same mass, which project across two-thirds of the width of the window, to modify the glare from its southern aspect (Pl. LXIV, 3). A triclinium opens on to the lower terrace,⁷ and another room has a Greek inscription.⁸ The unusually high proportion of Greek to Nabataean inscriptions⁹ in el Madras implies a small aristocratic population; and its isolated position and the hardness of the rock account for the many that have survived. As there are no tombs in the suburb, the residents may have been buried in the outer Sîq, and the southern area adjoining it.

¹ Fig. 10, from Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 239; pp. 293-8. *Br. É Dom.* I, No. 625.

² See Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, pp. 117-37.

³ Dalman, *ibid.*, Fig. 36, No. 93; Fig. 51 and on plan, Fig. 50 a. *Br. É Dom.* I, No. 51.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Fig. 36, No. 89. *Br. É Dom.* I, No. 41. *CIS* II, 442. For the various dating see Dussaud, *Journal Asiatique*, 1904, p. 226, note 1, and Clermont-Ganneau, *Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale*, II, p. 379.

⁵ Dalman, *ibid.*, Fig. 36.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Fig. 36, No. 106; *Br. É Dom.* I, No. 55.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Fig. 36, No. 103.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Fig. 36, No. 109.

⁹ For Nabataean inscriptions see Dalman, *ibid.*, Fig. 36, Nos. 88, 89, 90, 106. For Greek inscriptions, *ibid.*, Nos. 90, 103, 106, 109.

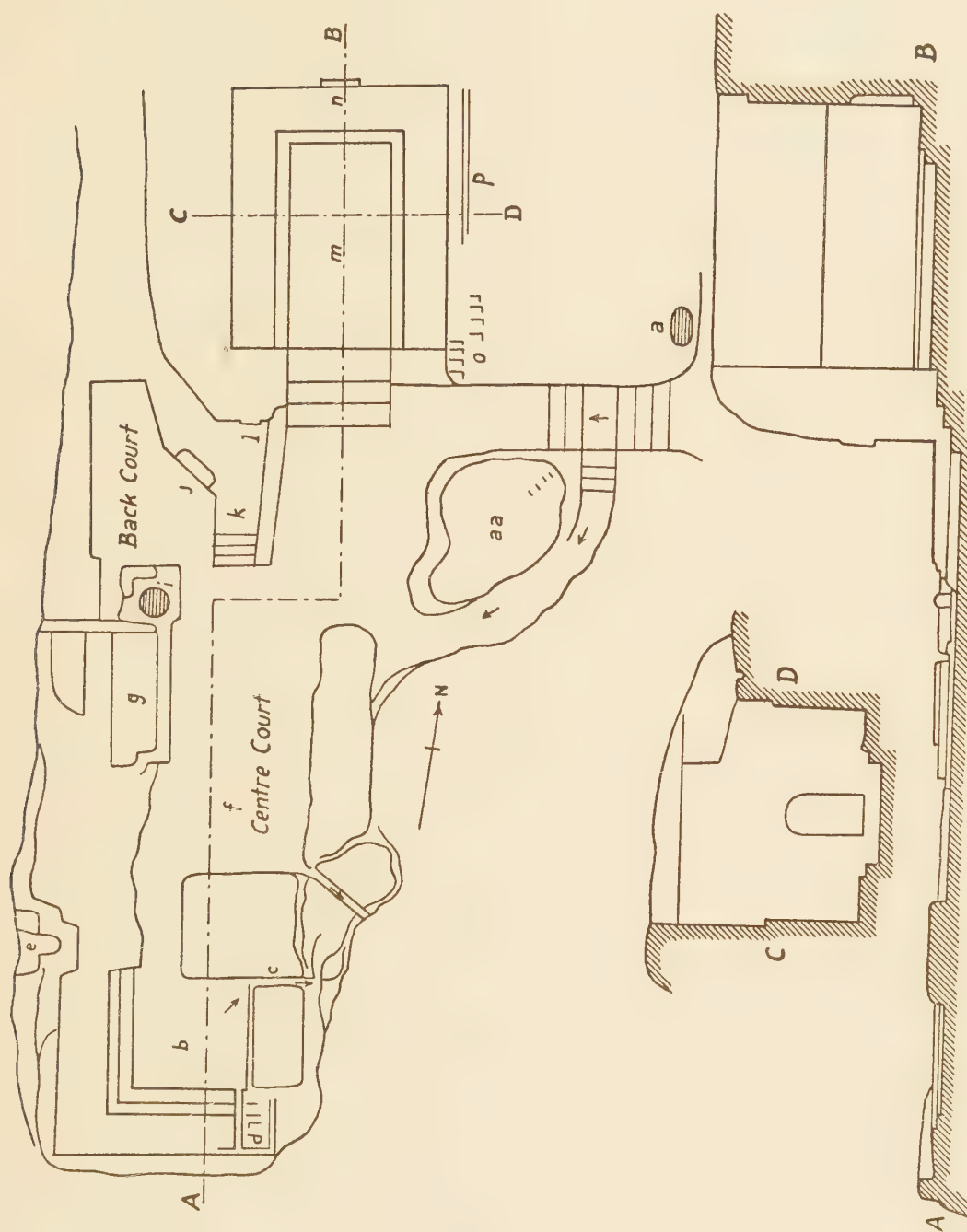


FIG. 10. Courtyard house on el Mu'ejra. (From Dalman, *Felsheiligthümer*, p. 295.)

A variant of the three-sided oblong triclinium is to be seen by climbing the north side of the mountain immediately opposite the junction of the Wādi Kharrūbet Ibn Jureime with the Siyāgh. A crenellated tomb, standing alone on a high level, is the landmark in front of which the pedestrian mounts a steep rock staircase, till he reaches a small terrace with a view straight back down the Wādi Kharrūbet Ibn Jureime. Here were once three circular rock rooms,¹ the largest well-preserved, measuring 5.50 × 5.50 m. (Pl. LXV, 1).² Its entrance faces north, on to the nearby cliff, and a rock basin outside has been cut to catch rain-water.³

The isolated cone-shaped rocks suggested the circular form of the rooms which all once had a continuous raised circular step open to the entrance (Pl. LXV, 2). Perhaps these round triclinia were made in imitation of the *mensae citreae*, the circular tables or *sigmata*, which came into fashion in Rome about 28 B.C., around which dining couches were arranged in a crescent.⁴

Inscriptions scratched on the wall of the largest circular room read: 'Remembered shall be the son of Ulihat, Hail!'⁵ and 'Remembered for good shall be the son of Jibshar'.⁵ If these were contemporary with the carving of the room, they should prove its use for memorial feasts in honour of the dead. The three triclinia would then have served the tomb area on the upper level of the Siyāgh. But too much stress need not be laid on this evidence of inscriptions, since it was the custom of the Nabataeans to scratch similar phrases on rock walls far removed from graves or triclinia. These are not in close proximity to tombs, and the well-protected high and cool terrace may have been a residential area.

Dalman claims to have found sixty-nine triclinia of various forms at Petra;⁶ but the number must be greater still, since the deposit of ages has in many cases covered up the continuous low rock step joining the back and side walls to the floor. A rare type, the stibadium, is a combination of the oblong shape with the round *mensa citrea* forming the top short end. All these specimens are rock-hewn, in the open air, and unroofed. One belonged to a house (Pl. LIII, 2) on the summit of el Khubtha (Pl. LXVI, 1);⁷ another to a house⁸ between the two Byzantine hermitages near the Deir, where it was the only triclinium; and three were carved in the middle of a grave area, near a tri-

¹ Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 179, Nos. 397, 398, and 399.

² *Ibid.*, No. 398.

³ *Ibid.*, No. 398 a.

⁴ Sandys, *Companion to Latin Studies*, p. 207, 'triclinium', and Smith-Wayte—Marindin, *Dict. Antiq.*, II, 157.

⁵ Dalman, *Neue Petra-Forschungen*, p. 96, Nos. 81–2.

⁶ Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, p. 89.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Figs. 305 and 306.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Fig. 196, No. 441 I; Figs. 200 and 201.

clinium of the usual form, for commemorative feasts to the dead.¹ In el Baiḍa there is a variant.²

A unique triclinium (Pl. LXVI, 2) has an arcosolium burial cut centrally into its rear wall. This is in the Qaṭṭar ed Deir (Pl. LXVII, 1), opening on to a shelf above a gorge,³ bordered with Nabataean and Christian symbols carved along the cliff edge. There was no room here for a second rock-hewn chamber beneath the overhang, so an isolated tomb and funereal triclinium were combined. Their relation to this cool shady spot with water dripping into rock-cut basins by the path, has not been determined. The actual liwān step is the best preserved in Petra.

A few triclinia have architectural façades and seem all to have been used for commemorative feasts to the dead. The most striking is carved out of the rock below the tomb of the Obelisks in the outer Sīq (Pl. LXVII, 2)⁴ and designed in the Nabataean classic style, for use in connexion with the tomb above⁵ which resembles the description of the sepulchre of the Maccabees, erected at Modin in Palestine in 143 B.C. 'Then sent Simon and took the bones of Jonathan his brother, and buried them in Modin, the city of his fathers. . . . Simon also built a monument upon the sepulchre of his father and his brethren, and raised it aloft to the sight, with hewn stone behind and before. Moreover he set up seven pyramids, one against another, for his father, and his mother, and his four brethren.'⁶

The pyramid or obelisk was the usual Nabataean memorial, frequently scratched on the walls of tomb chambers above the sunken graves, and sometimes bearing the name of the dead (Pl. LXVIII, 1 and 2).⁷ The finish and tooling of the triclinium below and the burial chamber are identical, and the simultaneous inclusion of two such widely divergent designs in one complex illustrates the difficulty of placing the monuments of Petra in any chronological sequence. An inscription on the front of the Turkmaniye tomb (Pl. LXIX, 2),⁸ epigraphically of the first century B.C.,⁹ is the one literary source for the existence of tomb complexes at Petra, to which all these architectural triclinia may once have belonged.

¹ Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, Fig. 122.

² *Ibid.*, Figs. 322 and 323.

³ Dalman, *ibid.*, Fig. 192, No. 440.

⁴ *Br. & Dom.* I, No. 34.

⁵ Wiegand, *Petra*, p. 18.

⁶ 1 Macc. xiii. 27-30.

⁷ A pair of these (the shape of the left one in Pl. LXVIII, 2) near el Bārid is dated 2 B.C. See Musil, *Edom*, II, Fig. 150, and Dalman, *loc. cit.*, p. 354. For inscription see Musil, *Anzeiger der phil.-hist. Klasse der K.A.W. in Wien*, 1907, pp. 135 sqq.

⁸ *Br. & Dom.* I, No. 633. For the inscription see *CIS* II, 350; reproduced in Cooke's *North Semitic Inscriptions*, 94; Clermont-Ganneau, *R.A.O.*, II, p. 128-33; *Br. & Dom.* I, p. 365; and de Vogüé, *Revue Biblique*, 1897, pp. 231 sqq. For its elucidation see Wiegand, *Petra*, pp. 89-90. The translation given here is an adaptation of our own.

⁹ According to Clermont-Ganneau.

'This tomb and the large burial chamber inside, and the small burial chamber further in, in which are the graves of the dead in niches; and the court in front of it, with the porticoes and the dwellings inside; the gardens, the space with couches for the funeral repasts,¹ the cisterns, the grotto (*or* chapel),² and the rocks, and the rest of the property which is in these places, is the consecrated and inviolable possession of Dushara, the god of our lord, and his sacred throne, and all the gods, as specified in deeds relating to consecrated things according to their contents. And it is the order of Dushara and his throne and of all the gods, that according to what is in the said deeds relating to consecrated things, so it shall be done, and not changed. Nor shall anything that is in them be withdrawn; nor shall any man be buried in this tomb save him who has in writing a contract to be buried, in the said deeds relating to consecrated things for ever.'

The two empty rock-carved burial-chambers are still in good condition;³ but all trace of the existence of others has disappeared (Pl. LXIX, 1).

A parallel complex is to a large extent preserved in the precinct of the so-called Tomb of the Roman Soldier,⁴ surely a royal tomb; whereas the Turkmaniye tomb was a communal one, with a record office to hold the title-deeds of the people who had paid for right of burial; hence the absence of name or date on this complete inscription. The Roman Soldier tomb was cleared in 1936⁵ and a large sarcophagus platform revealed against the end wall. The purlieu is an artificially levelled site behind a high masonry block at the head of the east Farasa Wādi (Pl. LXX), where a rock-cut court in front of the tomb⁶ has been postulated, with colonnades on three sides, from indications on the rock walls. Opposite the tomb is a great triclinium (Pl. LXXI, 1) excavated in 1934⁷ with a niche for the deified ancestor in the back wall. The rock-hewn so-called 'Garden Tomb', with a pillared front approached by a flight of steps, is the grotto-chapel or temple (Pl. LXXI, 2); the great cistern against the western cliff (Pl. LXXII, 1), the garden and the dedicated rocks of this complex, are all paralleled in the Turkmaniye inscription.

The triclinium, for funeral feasts, is a superb basilica of the type mentioned by Vitruvius as characteristically 'Egyptian', by which he meant 'Alexandrian', and is the only Petra example where the *klinai* are detached from the walls, as they are in the Mausoleum of Kum-esh-Shukafa in Alexandria. On

¹ See Kammerer, *Petra et la Nabatène*, p. 458, copying De Vogüé, *Journal Asiatique*, 1896, p. 492.

² The same word, 'Ṣahūtā', is used to describe the rock-cut chapel of the Divine Obodat. Dalman, *Felsheiligtümer*, p. 214; Wiegand, *Petra*, p. 90. For inscription see *CIS* II, 354.

³ *Br. & Dom.* I, No. 633, for plan.

⁴ *Br. & Dom.* I, No. 239.

⁵ By the Department of Antiquities, Trans-Jordan.

⁶ See Wiegand, *Petra*, 'Grabbezirk im Wādi el-Farasa Ost', pp. 75-94, by Bachmann.

⁷ By the Department of Antiquities, Trans-Jordan.

SELA-PETRA, THE ROCK, OF EDOM AND NABATENE

a terrace above, cut out of the rock wall and facing the cistern, are remains of a unique vaulted hall decorated with niches (Pl. LXXII, 2), which may have been a second triclinium, used at a different season of the year.

With the Turkmaniye inscription for a clue and the Roman Soldier complex as a pattern, other more deteriorated tomb complexes can be identified. One of these, on a grand scale, is in the lower reach of the east Farasa Wādi, on the way to the Tomb of the Roman Soldier.

In a corner, shut in by cliffs on two sides, a sheltered space was once separated from the wādi by a barrage. There is no sign of building on its flat ledge; but the three rock walls below it are plastered as though to make a pool from the overflow. The ground rises gently to the back cliff, into which a large tomb with a broken pediment has been cut (Pl. LXXIII, 1),¹ dominating the precinct. It had a vaulted cistern in front, at a lower level, and another high up to the east. A hall on that side was once a triclinium, later turned into a cistern. Only the back step remains, with a channel cut through the middle of it, fed with rain-water from a hole in the roof. The whole space was laid out as a garden and to the north of the triclinium a rock-hewn fountain basin with six sides can still be distinguished (Pl. LXXIII, 2).

Another tomb complex (Pl. LXXIV, 1) surrounds the so-called 'Lion' triclinium (Pl. LXXIV, 2),² carved in the face of a precipice at the head of a blind alley containing several tombs and no houses, which was once approached by a bridge over a gully from the main road to the Deir. The façade has sculptured heads and capitals in the style of the Corinthian tomb, copied from the Khazne. An uncouth lion passant, carved in low relief, guards the narrow door on each side. This door is unique; its ornaments have disappeared and there was a circular window above it. The Dushara betyl to the left is not a horned altar as its deep weathering at first suggests, and in the middle of the rear wall the remnant of a niche indicates the position of a lost cult statue. The less elaborate tomb façades had inset stone mouldings above the doors where the rock was of poor quality. A fissure, high up in the cliff on the right of the triclinium, was walled off to form a cistern.

What is probably the simplest tomb complex, with the earliest datable inscription in Petra, is hewn in the sepulchral area outside the Sīq, almost opposite the Obelisk tomb. In the middle of an isolated outcrop of worn-down white sandstone, full of rock-cut chambers, is a small triclinium;³ and high up under the ceiling an inscription, intended to apply to the whole

¹ *Br. & Dom. I*, No. 228.

² *Br. & Dom. I*, No. 452.

³ *Br. & Dom. I*, Nos. 15-24; Dalman, *Neue Petra-Forschungen*, p. 40, Figs. 34, 35.

complex: 'These are the rooms and the cisterns made by Aslah, son of Aslah, . . . for Dushara, the god of Manbatu, for the life of Obodat, King of the Nabataeans, son of Aretas, King of the Nabataeans, in his first year.' This king is either Obodat II (62-47 B.C.) or Obodat I (c. 90 B.C.) whose inscriptions are otherwise unknown. Since it is clearly stated that the rooms were put up for Dushara, does it follow that they were a sanctuary? The chapter on 'Sanctuaries of Dushara' will take this inscription as its text.

[To be continued]



PANORAMA OF THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE CITY SITE,

1. El Ḥabīs.
2. House (Ḥaurān type).
3. Crusading Castle of Sel.
4. Umm el Biyāra.
5. Unfinished Tomb.
6. Columbarium.
7. Qaṣr el Bint Far'ōn.
8. Wādī Mūsa.
9. Upper Siyāgh.
10. Lower Siyāgh.
11. Qabr Jumei'ān.
12. Rabbēl I's inscription.
13. Piazza in front of Triple Gate.

14. Triple Gate.
15. 'Small' Temple.
16. Baths.
17. Provenance of architectural fragment with intertwined snakes.
18. Provenance of capital with four heads in relief.
19. House on First Terrace of el Biyāra.
20. Tomb and Hermitage.
21. Zibb Far'ōn.
22. Wādī el Magharriq.
23. Wādī Farasa.

24. 'Peripteral' Temple.
25. 'Gymnasium.'
26. 'Palace.'
27. 'Lower Market.'
28. Ez Zanṭūr.
29. 'Middle Market.'
30. 'Upper Market.'
31. Tiers of shops.
32. Stairs to 'Upper Market'.
33. Paved road above Wādī Mūsa leading to Qaṣr el Bint.
34. 'Byzantine' building.

(The names in quotations con



D BY WĀDĪ MŪSA, TAKEN FROM QABR JUMEI'ĀN

Nymphaeum.
Farasa Wādi.
Farasa Wādi.
Numeir.
umeir.
ish dump 'C'.
of South wall of City.
e with niches. (Br. and Dom.,
188.)
e shrine.
'Atuf.
Sharra.

46. House. (Br. and Dom., no. 184.)
47. Site of large Theatre.
48. House opposite Theatre.
49. Es Siq.
50. Tomb of Shaqilat.
51. Unfinished Tomb.
52. Site of large Reservoir.
53. Umm el 'Amr.
54. Umm es Šanādīq.
55. Small Theatre.
56. Prostrate granite column.
57. Wādi el Matāha.

58. Provenance of large 'Khazne' capital.
59. Abutment of bridge over Wādi el
Matāha.
60. Circular enclosure.
61. Tomb of Sextus Florentinus.
62. El Khubtha.
63. House on el Khubtha.
64. Tomb of the Urn.
65. End of second northern wall of City.
66. Palace Tomb.
67. Corinthian Tomb.
68. Rubbish dump 'D'.

gand's 'Petra'.)



NORTHERN CITY SITE FROM THE TOP OF UMM EL BIYĀRA

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. El Ḥabīs. | 6. Provenance of 'grape' capitals. | 13. Tomb of Sextus Florentinus. |
| 2. Crusading Castle of Sel. | 7. Qabr Jumei'an. | 14. Wādi Matāha. |
| 3. Cistern marking end of city wall
at junction of Wādis Mūsa and
Siyāgh. | 8. Tower Sanctuary. | 15. Abutment of bridge over Wādi Matāha. |
| 4. Wādi Abu 'Ollēqa. | 9. Turkmaniye Tomb. | 16. Large Nymphaeum. |
| 5. Spring. | 10. En Našāra necropolis. | 17. Wādi Mūsa. |
| | 11. El Khubtha. | 18. Triple Gate. |
| | 12. Site of river crossing of First Wall. | |



NORTHERN HALF OF CITY SITE, BOUNDED BY WĀDI MŪSA AND RUBBISH DUMPS, TAKEN
FROM THE FIRST TERRACE OF JEBEL EN NUMEIR



4. THE SHO AFTER RAIN



5. WADJ SHO BOYS WITH FROG POIS CLIMBING UP TO EL U'ERHA



1. WĀDI MŪSA CROSSING THE SPINE OF THE CITY



2. THE SIYĀGH ROUNDING EL ḤABĪS
(1. Site of Sanctuary)



Site of
‘Patriptural’
Temple →

← Site of
‘Gymnasium’

U'MM EL BIYĀRA, DOMINATING EL HĀBĪS



1. THE SIYĀGH, LOOKING WEST, BETWEEN EL BIYĀRA AND THE DEIR MOUNTAIN



2. WĀDI KHARRŪBET IBN JUREIME, BETWEEN EL HABĪS AND EL BIYĀRA
JEBEL EN NUMEIR IN DISTANCE



1. ROCK-CUTTING TO TAKE END OF BLOCK IN
WĀDI KHARRŪBET IBN JUREIME



2. EL ḤABĪS AND ROCK-FOUNDATIONS OF A TOWER IN CENTRE FOREGROUND.
THE STONES ON THE RIGHT BETWEEN THIS FOUNDATION AND
EL ḤABĪS BELONG TO THE FIRST WALL



1. EL ḤABĪS FROM SOUTH, SHOWING MEN EXCAVATING THE SECOND SOUTHERN CITY WALL
(On the slope below is a glacis of fallen stones and a cemetery). Compare Pl. VIII. 2



2. FOUNDATIONS OF A FORT IN THE SIYĀGH INSIDE THE CIRCULAR SHADOW ON THE ROAD
(First identified by Canon Phythian Adams in 1933)

→ Br. 623
→ Br. 616
→ Cr.



Lower J. Terrace

Lower J. Terrace

THE MU'EISRA RIDGE FROM THE WEST WITH THE JUNCTION OF THE SIYĀGH AND WĀDĪ ED DEIR IN FOREGROUND
A NABATAEAN ROAD CLIMBS THE SPUR OBLIQUELY TO LOWER JUNCTION TERRACE



1. SOUTH END OF EL ĤABĪS FROM WEST



2. EL ĤABĪS FROM A HEIGHT ABOVE THE SIYĀGH SHOWING THE CASTLE ON THE SKY-LINE
(Compare Pl. V. 2.)



1. CRUSADERS' ARROW SHOTS



2. ENTRANCE TO CRUSADERS' CISTERN
EL HABIS, CRUSADER CASTLE



1. ZANȚŪR FORTRESS FROM WEST, SHOWING ITS ENTIRE LENGTH ON SKY-LINE
BEHIND THE COLUMN, ZIBB FAR'ŌN



2. SOUTH WALL OF FORTRESS OF ZANȚŪR AT SOUTH-WEST ANGLE



1. KATŪTE RUBBISH DUMP IN FRONT OF ZANṬŪR
(‘A’ sounding finished.)



2. ‘ARQŪB EL HĪSHE. THE WEST WALL, IN THE TRENCH IN THE FOREGROUND, AT
ITS JUNCTION WITH THE TOWER SANCTUARY



TOMB OF SEXTUS FLORENTINUS



PALACE TOMB

CORINTHIAN TOMB

Br. 768

Br. 770

Br. 771

LINE OF ROYAL TOMBS

TOMB OF THE URM



1. EXCAVATED FIRST NABATAEAN WALL NEAR EL ḤABÍS
(in front of rubbish dump 'F')



2. SECOND SOUTHERN WALL WITH CORNER OF EL ḤABÍS ON LEFT



3. TYPICAL NABATAEAN TOOLING



1. RETAINING WALL OF WĀDI EL MATĀHA WITH ABUTMENT OF BRIDGE



2. RETAINING WALL OF WĀDI EL MATĀHA



1. ABUTMENT OF BRIDGE IN WĀDI EN NAṢĀRA



2. NICHES IN SIDD EL MA'AJIN



1. HIGH LEVEL ROAD LEADING TO SIQ BARRAGE



2. TUNNEL DIVERTING WĀDI MŪSA



1. 1. REMAINS OF SPRING OF ARCH OVER NICHES ON BOTH SIDES OF HIGH LEVEL ROAD AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SLO



ENTRANCE TO SIQ, SHOWING BOTH NICHES AND SPRING
OF ARCH ABOVE HIGH LEVEL ROAD



1. PAVEMENT IN THE SIQ



2. PAVEMENT IN CENTRE OF CITY NEAR THE SMALL THEATRE



1. WEATHERWORN REMAINS OF DWELLINGS (HIGH UP) IN A WIDENING OF THE SIQ



2. SIQ CONDUIT



1. SĪQ EXIT AND EL KHAZNE



2. TOMBS SOUTH OF THEATRE



LARGE THEATRE



TOMB OF SHAQILAT
Br. 808

BR. 814

PANORAMA OF TOMBS AND HOUSES OPPOSITE THE THEATRE

Br. 811



1. HOUSES IN NAŞĀRA SUBURB



recumbent
← granite
column

2. LARGE NYMPHAEUM AT FORK OF ROAD IN WĀDI MŪSA



1. PAVEMENT ON UPPER ROAD TO THE SOUTH OF THE
STREET IN WĀDI MŪSA



2. TRIPLE GATE AND PIAZZA



1. QASR EL BINT FAR'ÖN FROM EAST



2. STONE-BUILT STAIRCASE TO ED DEIR



1. VIEW FROM HIGHEST POINT OF ED DEIR PLATEAU, LOOKING
SOUTH-EAST ACROSS THE CITY TO ELJI



2. DEIR TEMPLE



1. TRICLINIUM NEAR POST AT NORTH END OF DEIR PLATEAU, OVERLOOKING
WĀDI MIRWĀN



2. LEVEL SOUTHERN EXTENSION OF PETRA, SHOWING TOMBS
AND MOUNT HOR IN DISTANCE



CAMELS FROM HAY'IL GOING THROUGH PETRA TO EGYPT BY THE WĀDĪ KHARRŪBET IBN JUREIME



1. PLATEAU OF EL BAIDA



2. ENCLAVE OUTSIDE THE CREVASSE LEADING TO SIQ EL BĀRID



1. ONLY ENTRANCE TO SIQ EL BÂRID
(Copyright, American Colony Stores, Jerusalem)



2. BLOCKED EXIT OF SIQ EL BÂRID



1. HOUSES AND STORE-ROOMS INSIDE THE SĪQ EL BĀRID



2 ROCK-CUT STAIR TO JEBEL ZIBB 'ATUF



TOWERS OF QAŞR EL QANTARA ON JEBEL ZIBB 'ATUF LOOKING NORTH



1. QUARRY IN VALLUM BETWEEN OBELISKS AND SCARP LOOKING SOUTH



2. NABATAEAN TOWERS PROTECTING WESTERN ASCENT TO QAṢR EL QANTARA



STAIRCASE TO JEBEL EN NUMEIR FROM WĀDI EN NUMEIR



EL U'EIRA. CRUSADER CASTLE, FROM EAST, DOMINATING ROAD TO EL BÂRID



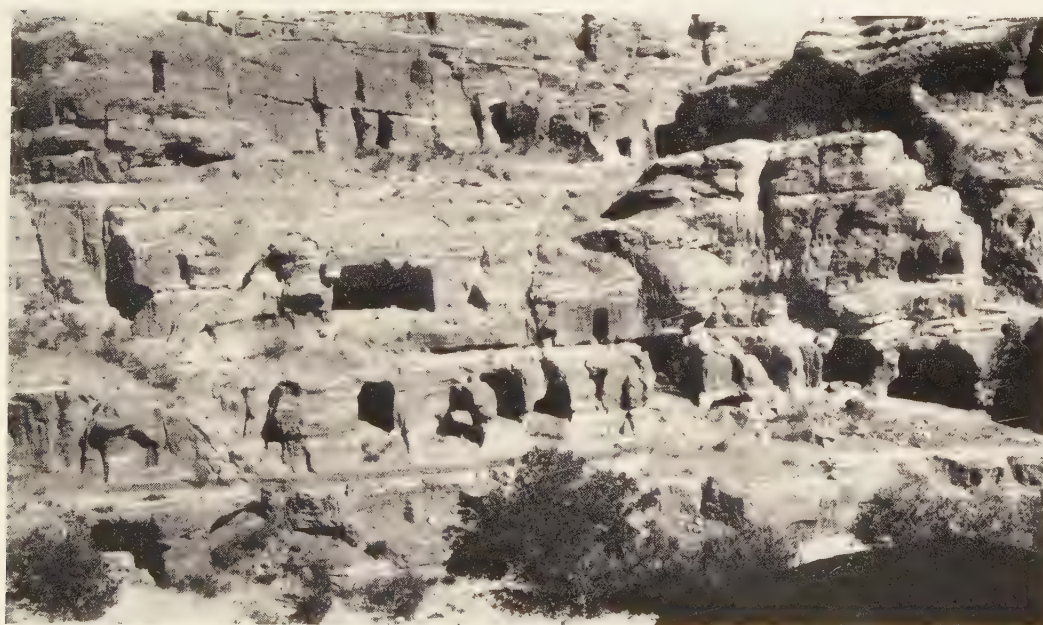
1. ROCK-CUT STAIRS AND CISTERNS TO THE WEST OF THE CASTLE,
OVERLOOKING PETRA BASIN



2. RESERVOIR ON TOP OF EL KHUBTHA



1. EAST SIDE OF EL. ḤABĪS, SHOWING TIERS OF STREETS AND HOUSES



2. SOUTH SIDE OF THE SIYĀGH, SHOWING FOUR MAIN SUPERIMPOSED STREETS WITH INTERMEDIATE LEVELS ON THE TWO UPPER TIERS



1. ROCK-CUT ROAD IN NORTHERN FACE OF EL HABIS
ABOVE THE SIYĀGH, WITH TIERS OF HOUSES IN THE
OPPOSITE CLIFF



2. STUCCO ON THE BACK WALLS OF A PERISHED
HOUSE, EAST SIDE OF EL HABIS



1. TERRACE ON NORTH SIDE OF THE SIYĀGH, LEADING TO THE HOUSE IN PL. XLIV, 2 (*h. 1/200*)



2. EXCAVATED HOUSE WITH CUPBOARD IN NORTH SIDE OF THE SIYĀGH



1. TERRACE HOUSE IN WĀDI MU'EIŞRA ESH SHARQIYE



2. ROW OF ROCK-CHAMBERS OVERLOOKING WĀDI MU'EIŞRA ESH SHARQIYE, LEADING TO THE HOUSE IN PL. XLV, 1 (*above*)



1. HOUSE IN NORTH SIDE OF THE SIYĀGH,
WITH ROCK ROOMS JOINED BY STAIRS



H F D
2. HOUSE OF THREE STOREYS (DETAIL
BEGINNING WITH ROOM D ON RIGHT)



H F D C B A
3. HOUSE OF THREE STOREYS (GENERAL VIEW)



1. HOUSE OPPOSITE LARGE THEATRE. ROOM F, WITH PAINTED JUNCTION OF VAULTING



2. FAÇADE OF 'PAINTED HOUSE', SIQ EL BARID



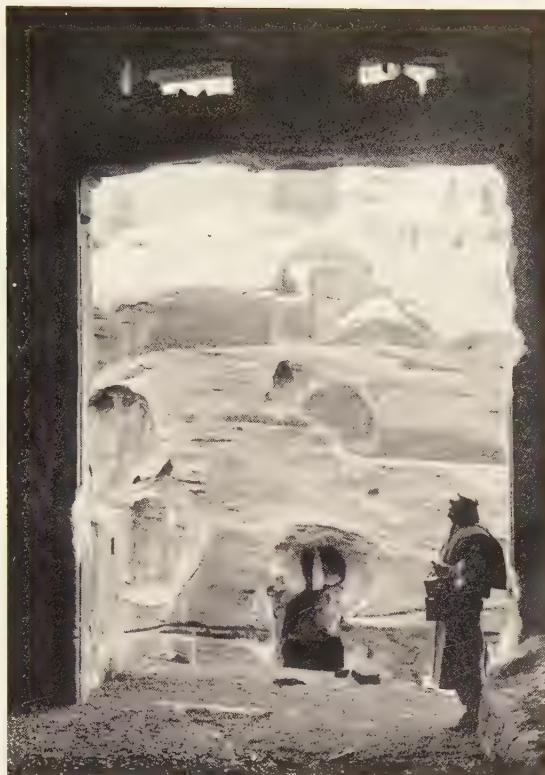
1. BICLINIUM AND RECESS IN 'PAINTED HOUSE', SIQ EL BĀRID



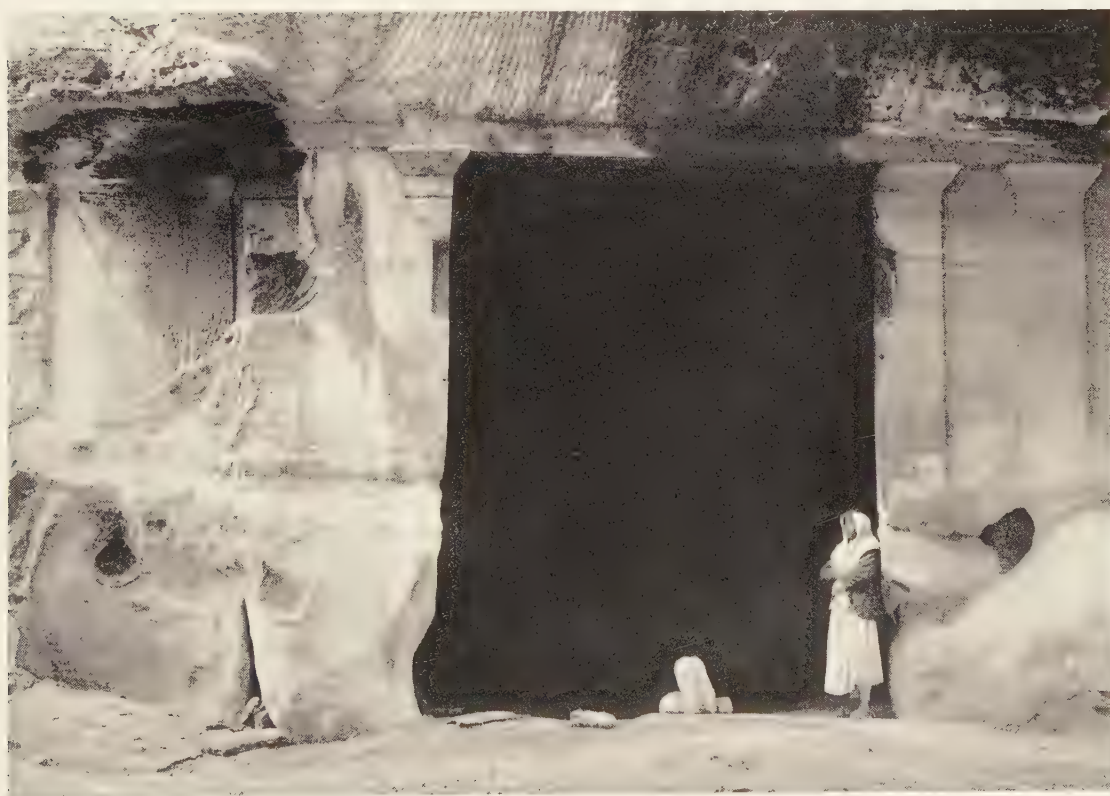
2. TOOLING OF THE BICLINIUM IN 'PAINTED HOUSE', SIQ EL BĀRID



PAINING ON LEFT SIDE OF RECESS IN A HOUSE IN SÎQ EL BÂRID (Taken in 1906)
By kind permission of the École biblique et archéologique française, Jérusalem



VIEW TAKEN THROUGH THE DOOR OF THE
'PAINTED HOUSE', SÎQ EL BÂRID



STREET FAÇADE OPPOSITE THE 'PAINTED HOUSE', SÎQ EL BÂRID



TWO STOREYED HOUSE ABOVE WĀDĪ MU'ĒISRA ESH SHARQIYE



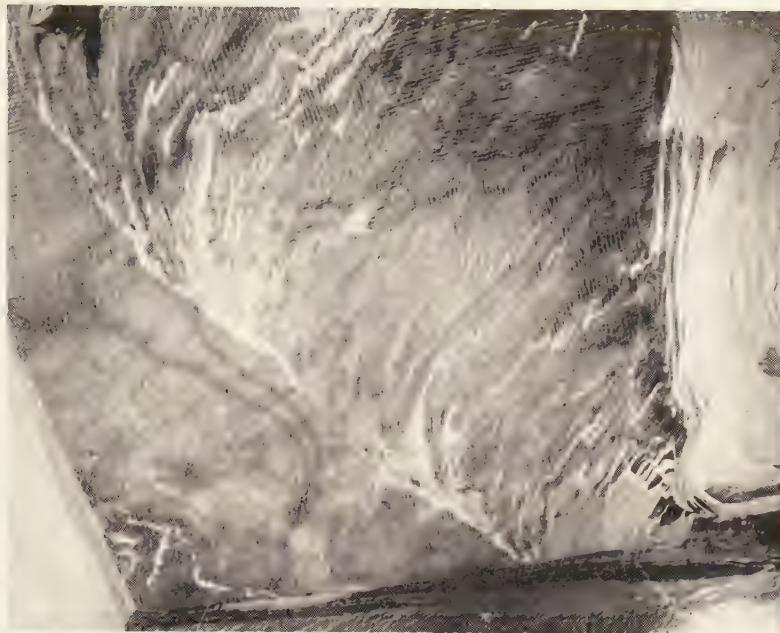
1. HOUSE IN EAST FACE OF JEBEL ZIBB 'ATUF, DECORATED WITH NICHES. (Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 188)



2. ROCK HOUSE ON TOP OF EL KHUBTHA IN CONNEXION WITH A LOOK-OUT POST (PL. I. 63)



3. NABATAEAN HOUSE USED LATER BY HERMITS. DOORWAYS TO ROOMS (g) AND (i)



1. NABATAEAN HOUSE USED LATER BY HERMITS.
TOOLED CEILING OF ROOM (g)



2. FAÇADE OF HERMITAGE, ONCE A NABATAEAN HOUSE
(Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 460)



1. DOORWAY TO A HOUSE ON FIRST TERRACE OF EL BIYARA



2. NABATAEAN HOUSE USED BY HI RNIITH.
DOORWAY TO ROOM (J)



3. A HOUSE IN THE DEIR SUBURB. LINTEL *IN SITU*



1. FAÇADE OF A HOUSE IN EAST FACE OF EL HÂBIS



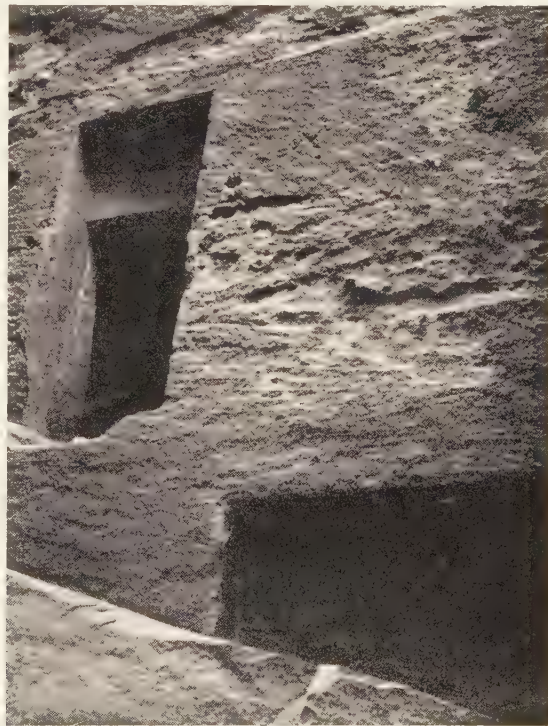
2. INTERIOR OF A HOUSE IN EAST FACE OF EL HÂBIS



1. FRAGMENT OF A STONE GRILLE FOUND IN A TOMB
IN THE SIYĀGH



2. FAÇADE OF TRICLINIUM IN A HOUSE IN WĀDI
EL HUREIMIYE. (Dalman's 'Klammheiligtum')



3. DETAIL OF THE SAME FAÇADE



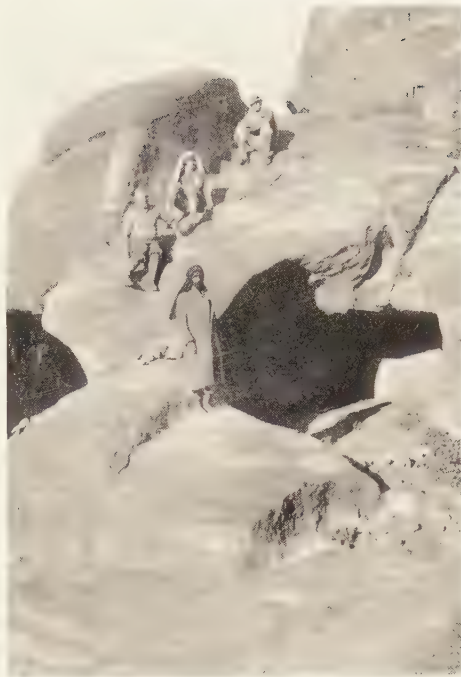
1. COMPLETE VIEW OF 'DOROTHEOS' HOUSE IN MIDDLE
(Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 717 and nos. 722-3)
(Compare PL. XXVIII. 1)



2. 'DOROTHEOS' HOUSE. CHIEF TRICLINIUM



1. 'DOROTHEOS' HOUSE. DOOR INTO
CHIEF TRICLINIUM



2. STAIRCASE TO UPPER TERRACE
'DOROTHEOS' HOUSE



3. 'DOROTHEOS' HOUSE. DUSHARA SYMBOL ON THRESHOLD OF DOMESTIC ORATORY



1. 'DOROTHEOS' HOUSE. 'DUSHARA'S THRONE' ON HIGHEST TERRACE



2. FORECOURT TO A HOUSE IN WEST FLANK OF JEBEL ZIBB 'ATUF
(Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 184)



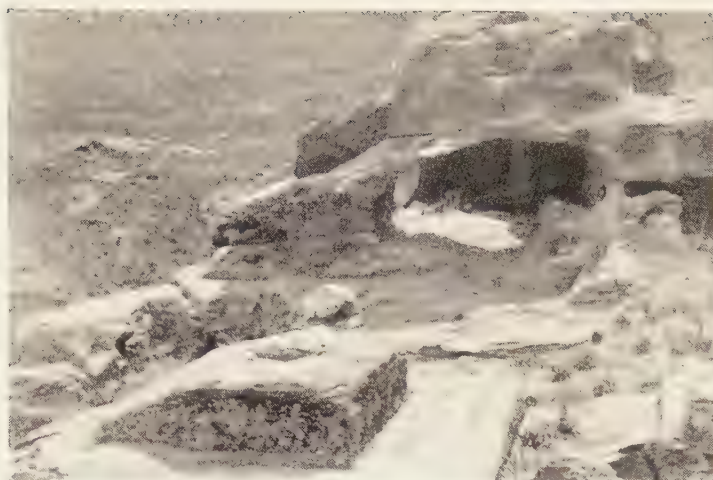
1. SAME HOUSE AS PL. LX, 2. INTERIOR OF GREAT ROOM



2. HOUSE NEXT TO 'DOKOIHOS' HOUSE
(Brünnow and Domaszewski, nos. 722-3 and Pl. I.VIII.)



1. TOMB CONVERTED INTO A HOUSE. EAST FARASA WĀDI. (Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 197)



2. COURTYARD HOUSE ON EL MU'EISRA. LOOKING EAST. DUSHARA BETYL AND TRICLINIUM (*h*) IN FOREGROUND



3. COURTYARD HOUSE ON EL MU'EISRA. LOOKING SOUTH-EAST. DUSHARA BETYL IN FOREGROUND AT THE TOP OF FOUR STEPS (Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 623)



1. COURTYARD HOUSE ON EL MU'EİŞRA (Br. 623). TRICLINIUM (x) IN FOREGROUND ON UPPER TERRACE, LOOKING SOUTH TO EL HÂBİS



2. COURTYARD HOUSE ON EL MU'EİŞRA. TRICLINIUM LOOKING EAST TO THE PALACE TOMB (Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 625).



1. EXTERIOR OF A TRICLINIUM IN EL MADRAS
(Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 55)



2. OUTDOOR TRICLINIUM IN EL MADRAS



3. ROCK-CUT SIDE CURTAIN TO LOW
SIDE-WINDOW IN TRICLINIUM IN
PL. LXIV. 1



1. CIRCULAR TRICLINIUM HIGH UP ON NORTH SIDE OF THE SIYĀGH
OPPOSITE EL BIYĀRA



2. INTERIOR OF THE SAME CIRCULAR TRICLINIUM



1. TRICLINIUM-STIBADIUM ON THE TOP OF EL KHUBTHA, LOOKING NORTH
(By kind permission of the École biblique et archéologique française, Jerusalem)



2. TRICLINIUM AND ARCOSOLIUM BURIAL IN QATTAR ED DEIR



1. QATṬAR ED DEIR



2. TOMB OF THE OBELISKS. (Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 34)



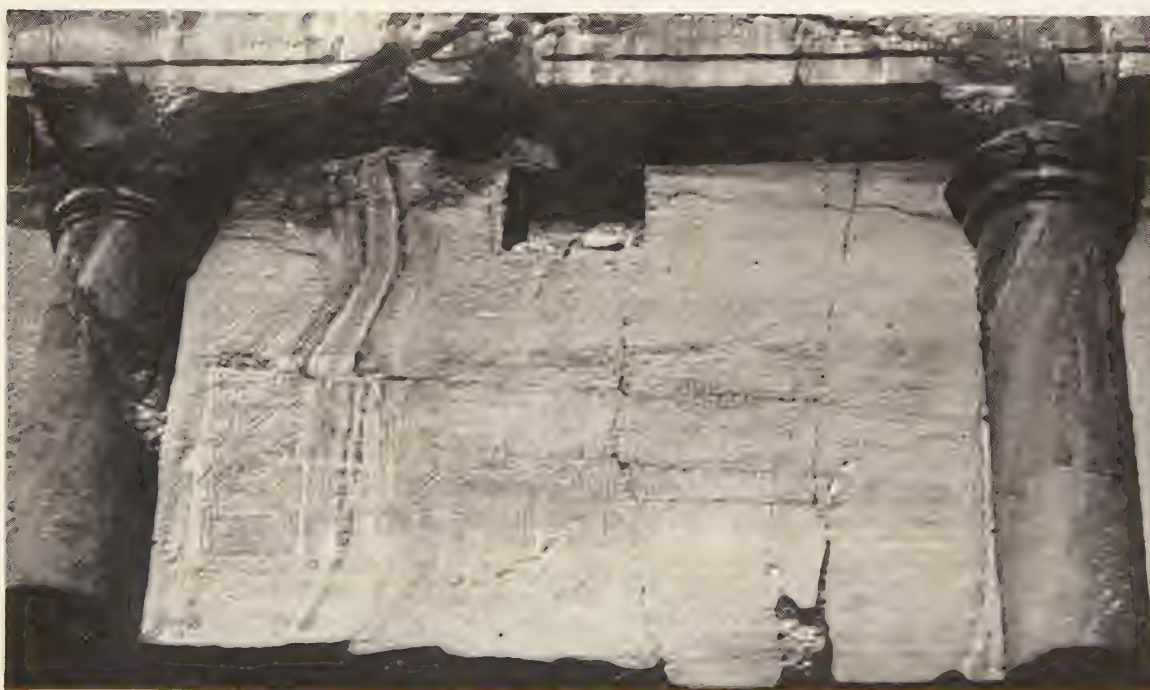
1. FUNERAL MONUMENT IN EL BAIḌA, WITH THE NAME OF THE
DECEASED ON THE BASE. (Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 833)



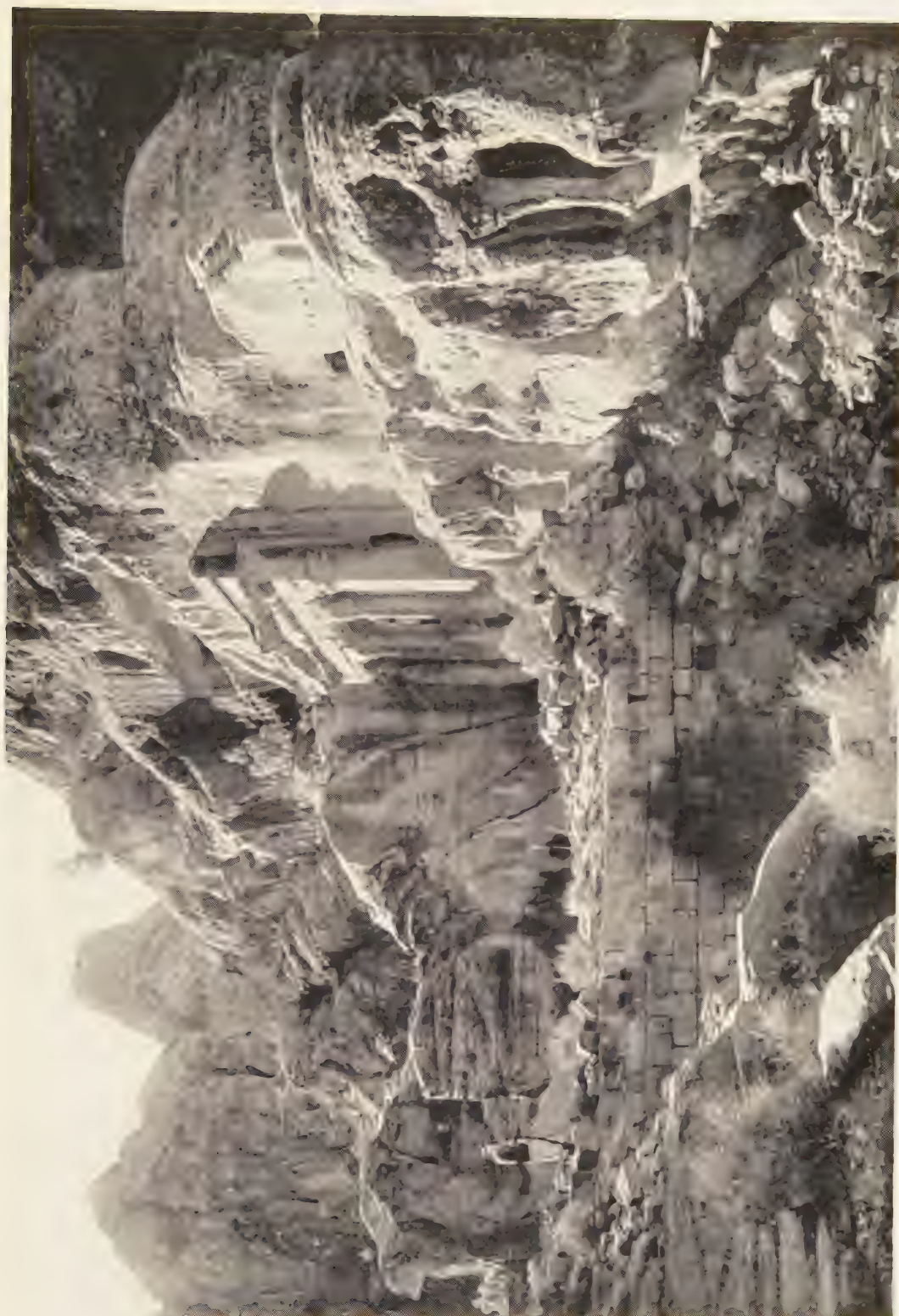
2. MEMORIALS OVER SUNKEN GRAVES IN A TOMB-CHAMBER UNDER EL KHUBTHA
(Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 825)



1. 'TURKMANIYE' TOMB IN CENTRE AND SURROUNDINGS



2. 'TURKMANIYE' TOMB INSCRIPTION
(Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 633)



PRECINCT OF THE 'TOMB OF THE ROMAN SOLDIER'
(Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 239)



1. TRICLINIUM OF THE 'TOMB OF THE ROMAN SOLDIER'



2. 'GROTTO-CHAPEL' AND CISTERN IN THE PRECINCT OF THE 'TOMB
OF THE ROMAN SOLDIER'



1. INTERIOR OF CISTERN IN THE 'ROMAN SOLDIER' TOMB COMPLEX



2. VAULTED TRICLINIUM BELONGING TO THE 'ROMAN SOLDIER' TOMB COMPLEX



1. TOMB COMPLEX IN EAST FARASA WĀDI
(Brünnow and Domaszewski no. 228)



2. HEXAGONAL FOUNTAIN BASIN IN PRECINCT OF TOMB IN EAST FARASA WĀDI



1. PRECINCT OF THE LION TRICLINIUM
(Brünnow and Domaszewski, no. 452)



2. LION TRICLINIUM

(By kind permission of the École biblique et archéologique française, Jerusalem)

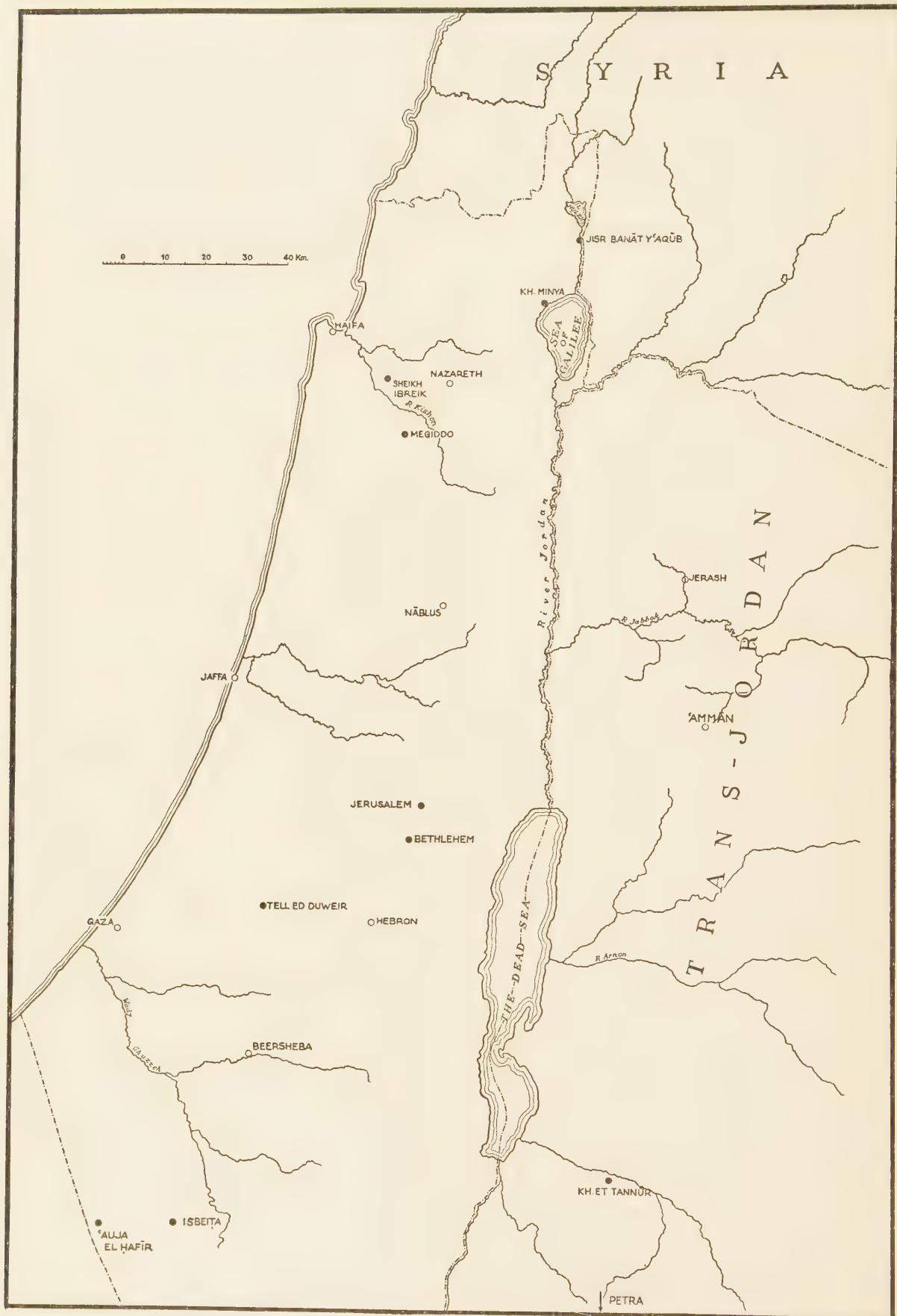


FIG. 1. (Sites of excavations shown thus •).

EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN,
1936-7¹

Jisr Banāt Ya'qūb

(The Hebrew University, Jerusalem; directed by M. Stekelis and L. Picard, with the collaboration of Miss D. M. A. Bate; assisted by P. Solomonica and E. Rosenau.)

THE second season began in March 1937. The point selected for excavation was the left shore of the Jordan, near the old bridge.

The stratification was as follows:

A. Upper gravel of the old Jordan bed with few flint implements of Levallois technique.

B. Yellowish clay of the transition zone with basalt pebbles. Molars and a few broken bones of elephants; flint implements of Acheulean technique.

C. Green clay with few basalt pebbles; molars and bones of elephants and other animals; flint implements of the same type as in Layer B.

D. Lower black soil bed with basalt, flint, and limestone boulders, containing abundant fauna of mollusca (*Melanopsis* sp. sp. and *Vivipara* so.), elephant tusks, molars, and parts of skeletons; flint and basalt implements of lower Acheulean technique.

Megiddo

(Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago; directed by Gordon Loud)

THE 1936-7 season extended from the latter part of December through mid-April. The excavations were confined to the two areas in which the work of the preceding season had been concentrated.

The east area of private houses was cleared layer by layer to Stratum XVII which dates to *ca.* 2000 B.C. This level of imposing architecture was last season encountered in a sounding and was tentatively assigned to Stratum XIII (see *QDAP*, VI, p. 219). Recent expansion of this area, however, has disclosed intermediate levels not recognizable in the original sounding. Movable objects were peculiarly scarce in this stratum, but the numerous small sherds were characteristic of the normal pottery of the last phase of the Early Bronze period, and were comparable to Stage I of the strata on the lower slopes of the mound. A period of slight rebuilding is followed by Stratum XV of massive architecture with pottery characterized by red burnished ware in forms similar to XIIth dynasty types from coastal sites. At the end of another period of rebuilding the plan changes completely in Stratum XIII where

¹ Continued from Vol. VI, pp. 212-26.

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monumental buildings give way to private houses behind a mud-brick city-wall. Stratum XII continues the use of the city wall, but its houses and streets are laid out anew in a plan which with but minor changes carries through the entire Hyksos period and into Stratum VIII of the eighteenth dynasty. The gradual evolution of pottery was discernible in the many well stratified house burials, a form of interment used throughout this period. Characteristic of Stratum XI, early seventeenth century, were structural stone-covered tombs with multiple burials.

The chief interest of the north area centres in the palace which was partially encountered but not identified the preceding season. The plan and exact dating of its original form is yet to be determined, but in its five phases it extended through Strata VIII and VII during the eighteenth and nineteenth dynasties. Its final stage may be dated from an inscribed ivory box to the reign of Ramses III.

Stripped of all furniture and other objects at the time of each rebuilding the palace supplied little cultural evidence aside from its magnificent architecture. Noteworthy exceptions to this general sterility were a hoard of treasure buried beneath the floor of the second palace, and a collection of ivories discarded when the final palace was abandoned. The former consisted of a gold shell-shaped bowl, perfume jars, and personal ornaments of gold, ivory, and lapis-lazuli—all objects which might once have been tribute to the king of Megiddo. The ivories, comprised of boxes, bowls, ornamental plaques, combs, &c., in their form and in their carved and incised decoration provide an incomparable single group of over 200 pieces in which are expressed the many convergent influences on Palestine of this period.

Petra

(British School of Archaeology in Egypt; directed by Miss A. M. Murray, with the assistance of J. Ellis and J. A. Saunders.)

Two sites were excavated, both on the slope overlooking the Wādi Abu 'Ollēqa. The northern site consisted of a large cave, filled to the top with silt laid by wind and rain. This was removed layer by layer. In the upper levels scattered sherds were found only near the mouth of the cave. At a depth of 6–7 feet the habitation levels were found. Hearths occurred in several parts of the cave, and contained charcoal, burnt stones, burnt animal bones, and the fragments of cooking pots. A low wall separated the cave from the platform in front; on the platform were cup-holes and a kind of niche cut in the rock. Quantities of Nabatean sherds, both plain and painted, were found in the cave; also several stone querns and other stone implements.

EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN

In the south site a small cave was dug; from this a stair on each side led to a platform higher up the hill; one stair was cut in the rock, the other had been built. In the upper platform was a rock-cut tomb covered with flat slabs. Though the tomb had been rifled, human bones—including a complete skull—pottery, a few beads and a coin were found. Above the tomb the rock had been cut to form an altar, with tethering holes for the sacrificial animals. Still further up the slope but apparently part of the same complex were chambers built of stone and communicating with a cave, which had been artificially made and then abandoned. A short excavation was also made on the slope of the Wādi Farasa, on the dump heaps where the local inhabitants pick up many small objects. The principal interest of this site was the number of pottery 'wasters', suggesting that the kilns must have been in this neighbourhood.

Khirbet et Tannūr

(American School of Oriental Research, Jerusalem, and Trans-Jordan Department of Antiquities; directed by Dr. Nelson Glueck and Lankester Harding)

THE ruins of a Nabatean temple called Khirbet et Tannūr were excavated during March–April 1937; the site is situated on the top of a high, isolated hill immediately south of the Wādi el Ḥesā (the River Zered).

The excavations have thus far revealed the major part of the temple complex. There was an outer east court, fronting a raised inner temple area, which contained a central platform-shrine. The temple is oriented almost exactly due east. Over the entrance to the raised inner temple-court was a large, semicircular panel, with a huge bust in relief of Atargatis represented as the goddess of foliage and fruit in the centre of it. The east façade of the wall of the inner temple area was decorated with a frieze of busts in relief of Hadad, Atargatis, and Helios figures. The inner platform-shrine, which was rebuilt three times owing to earthquakes, was reached, at least during the last two periods of its history, by steps leading to its top. On the top of the platform there was probably originally an altar. On the east facade of the shrine was attached a large relief of Zeus-Hadad, seated between two young bulls. A thunderbolt is visible alongside his left arm, and his raised right hand, now broken off below the elbow, probably held aloft originally a double axe. There is reason to believe that next to him originally was a relief of Atargatis seated between two lions. One of the lions has been found. The courses of the corner pilasters on the east façade of the shrine were decorated with busts in relief of Atargatis as the 'fish-goddess' and as the 'grain goddess'. A Nabatean inscription was found dating probably from the second period of

EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN

the temple to the year two of the reign of Ḥaretat and his wife Ḥuldū, that is to 7 B.C. Among the numerous fine sculptures there may be mentioned also the panel of Tyche with a mural crown; around the Tyche panel is a panel of the figures of the Zodiac arranged half in clock-wise and half in counter-clockwise order; suggesting the celebration of two New Years, one in the spring, and the other in autumn. On the north and south sides of the inner temple area and the outer east court are a series of rooms, where in all probability the temple functionaries lived and the pilgrims feasted and lodged. The rooms were well paved, with a high bench-like platform around three sides of each room. The small quantities of fine Nabatean sherds found belonged mainly to the earlier history of the site.

The deities of the Nabatean temple at Khirbet et Tannūr were primarily the deities of Syria. They call to mind the gods of Hierapolis-Bambyke, of Heliopolis-Baalbek, of Palmyra, Dura, but also of Ascalon.

Bethlehem

(Wellcome-Marston Archaeological Research Expedition to the Near East, Geological Section. Field Director: Miss E. W. Gardner. Palaeontologist: Miss D. M. A. Bate.)

THE two-months' season of 1937, though interrupted by rain, produced satisfactory results from both the geological and palaeontological sides. Geologically the bone-bearing gravels have been worked out on the south and east sides of the excavation and found to rest either irregularly on, or almost vertically against, a consolidated scree-like deposit composed almost entirely of local limestone blocks and red clay. On the west side the gravel is now confined to a narrow outcrop towards the north, which runs eastward along the north face and ends against a vertical and overhanging scree face in the north-east corner.

Here the most interesting palaeontological finds of the season were innumerable pieces of the carapace of a giant tortoise, lying close together on the surface of a thin red pebbly bed, which slopes steeply south. The bones share this dip and have evidently been carried down with the deposit.

The list of animals found now totals eleven, these being:

<i>Felis</i> sp. (size of <i>Panthera Leo</i>).	<i>Rhinoceros</i> cf. <i>etruscus</i> .
<i>Hippopotamus</i> sp.	<i>Stegodon</i> sp.
<i>Bos</i> sp.	<i>Elephas</i> sp.
Antelope	<i>Testudo</i> sp. (of gigantic size).
Giraffoid.	<i>Testudo</i> sp. (of very small size).
<i>Hipparion</i> sp.	

EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN

Besides the above species there is known to be a small carnivore, but its remains are extremely fragile and have not yet been extracted from the matrix.

With perhaps the exception of the large *Felis*, the *Bos* and the tiny tortoise, all these species are new to Palestine, and without doubt represent extinct forms.

Finally a discovery of the greatest human interest was made in the recognition of cherts which may have been worked by man. Miss Caton-Thompson, who kindly examined them, tentatively accepts some as tools of eolithic type. It is hoped that next season may bring to light more decisive specimens.

Khirbet Minya

(Goerresgesellschaft and Islamic Department, Staatliche Museen, Berlin; directed by Dr. Püttrich-Reignard.)

THE third season at Kh. Minya was concluded on 1 July 1937, after a campaign lasting several months.

Dr. A. E. Mader was the first scholar who excavated the mound of Kh. Minya in 1932. He discovered a square building not quite regular in shape, with a curtain wall, nine towers, and a huge ornamental portal on the east side; the whole resembled a small castle.¹ The excavations were continued last year by Dr. A. M. Schneider.²

As the origins of the building could not be established beyond all doubt, it was decided to begin systematic excavations on the site. The final judgement on Kh. Minya will be possible only after several years, as the rubble mounds to be cleared away are 4–5 m. high. So far the original construction has been attributed in turn—with more or less reservation—to the Romans, the Byzantines, the Ghassanids—and lately to an Umayyad Caliph.

The main result of the third season was the discovery of a mosque and an adjoining sumptuous palace building.

The mosque has been uncovered in the inner south-eastern corner of the building in the very first days of the season, systematic excavations starting in this corner. The semicircular praying niche built into the south wall is preserved *in toto*. The mosque was excavated to its full length of 13 and breadth of 20 m.; it certainly is one of the oldest mosque buildings of the Islamic world. There were three entrances to the mosque: one, on the East, was placed in the outer wall of the castle; its purpose was to give access to the mosque to worshippers living outside the castle; the second entrance was in the West and connected the mosque directly with the rooms of the adjoining

¹ *JPOS*, 1933, pp. 209 ff.

² *Oriens Christianus*, XXXIII, pp. 102 f.

EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN

palace; the third entrance led to the big central courtyard of the building through a corridor and a small gate.

There are several indications that the mosque, as well as several other parts of the palace of Kh. Minya, was never completed. This is shown *inter alia* by the existence of a mosaic workshop outside the north wall of the mosque. Two adjoining rooms, opening out into the corridor mentioned above, contained great quantities of multicoloured stones, which were being transformed there and then into mosaic cubes, as is shown by the innumerable minute fragments of stone lying about. One of these rooms contained black and white stones, the other red and yellow ones.

After the clearance of the mosque and the examination of part of the outer east wall and all the rooms inside the east wall, the main interest of the excavations was concentrated on a compact group of buildings adjoining the mosque. A trial trench, dug along the inner side of the south wall, led to the discovery of a series of rooms, remarkable alike for their regular plan and their rich decoration. Unfortunately, the time and the means at the disposal of the excavators did not allow the clearance of the whole of that extensive and highly important palace area; the excavators had to be content with establishing the plan of the building as completely as possible.

This part of the whole construction ended in a flight of rooms at the north wall of the mosque. Its exact centre was occupied by a marble hall, flanked on each side by groups of rooms which correspond symmetrically in their measurements. On the east side was an arched hall, leading to the mosque; on the West, five rooms formed a compact unit occupying the same space. The marble hall was divided into three aisles by marble roof-supports and contained *in situ* considerable remains of marble paving and marble wall covering. Great quantities of glass mosaic cubes of all colours make it probable that the walls had also a rich mosaic decoration.

In the arched hall a gold dinar of the Umayyads was found between the slabs of the uncompleted paving; this, and a second dinar found later on agree in their dating with the building inscription discovered last year, which declares that the Caliph Walid ordered the construction of this palace.

In the five rooms situated west of the marble hall were found mosaic pavements in an extraordinarily good state of preservation. So far only two of the smaller rooms have been completely cleared; the big middle room and the two other small rooms were only partly excavated.

The pavement of the small room recalls a pleated mat or a carpet by its regular pattern of bands in the centre. The field of the other pavements was divided by a guilloche into square spaces, filled with geometrical ornaments.

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The borders of both pavements consisted of attractive guilloche patterns. The pavements in the middle room caused a surprise; the mosaic cubes used here were of smaller size and partly of stone, partly of some glass material. Here also all the motifs so far discovered were of a geometrical character.

esh Sheikh Ibreik

(Jewish Palestine Exploration Society; directed by Dr. B. Maisler.)

THE second season of the excavations lasted from May till November 1937. The first half of the season was used to complete the clearance of the big catacomb in the western slope of the hill (cf. *QDAP*, Vol. VI, pp. 222-3); subsequently three additional caves were cleared to the south; of these the third and fourth were of special interest.

In the third tomb-cave seven steps led to a vestibule (nearly 10 m. long). The vestibule gives access to five halls by means of doorways, all of which were preserved entire with their lintels, doors, and doorposts. On most of the lintels there remain traces of inscriptions, some of which were engraved, while others were painted in red paint. On the doors are carved decorations imitating wooden doors and geometrical motifs. In front of hall 5, at the back wall of the vestibule, was a well-constructed arch, supported by masonry columns; fragments of a cornice above this arch have been also preserved. Hall 5 is 10.60 m. in length and is connected with seven small rooms with arcosolia, burial shafts, and rock-cuttings shaped like sarcophagi. Below one of the arcosolia was found a human skeleton and in two of the shafts were collected bones and fragments of wooden coffins, whose corners and nails remained *in situ*. The walls of this hall were decorated with several kinds of ornaments in relief, such as a shell and a human figure supporting on its head a seven-branched candlestick (the whole being two m. high). Other decorations in relief include two seven-branched candlesticks of human size, columns cut out from the rock, &c. Niches in the walls mark the places where pottery lamps were placed. On the walls are painted in red paint inscriptions in Greek and Palmyrene. Hall 2 of this tomb-cave has arcosolia and *kokim* cut in its sides; it is decorated with reliefs and paintings showing a shell, a cup, a bowl with a flower in its centre and rosettes around, together with traditional Jewish motifs, such as seven-branched candlesticks, the Thora shrine, a *shofar*, a roll-case, &c.

In the fourth tomb-cave eleven steps led to a small vestibule, from which four halls branch off; the doorways leading to the halls are well preserved. The first hall is connected with seven side-rooms, all covered with numerous

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reliefs and paintings, including some Greek inscriptions. Among the reliefs are the representations of a Thora shrine with all its details and a pair of lions represented in relief and painted over; these are placed above a rock-cut chair. In this place are also representations of human heads and many figures; the work is of a certain artistic merit. The roof of the back room and several of the arches between one room and another are painted with red paint. One of the persons buried in these rooms was a Palmyrene banker (τραπεζίτης).

The second hall of this cave is preceded by a stone arch supported on well-cut columns. This hall also abounds in inscriptions and drawings, amongst them the representation of a soldier with the legend ΓΕΡΜΑΝΟΣ ΙΣΑΚΙΟΥ ΠΑΛΜΥΡΗΝΟΥ.

In the three tomb-caves enumerated above were found several dozens of pottery, glass, and bronze objects; of special interest are the pottery lamps, the coins (one of Trajan), a bronze buckle with remains of the leather belt, the fragments of a marble statue, a silver cosmetic spoon, small glass perfume bottles, an ostrakon with a name, &c.

The second half of the season was devoted to the clearance of several tomb-caves situated in a hill to the north-west of Sheikh Ibreek. The sixth tomb-cave is distinguished by its architectural taste. Five steps (each 4.50 m. long), built from well-cut stones, lead to a vestibule (4.50 × 4 m.), paved with mosaics. The central part of the pavement (2.50 m. sq.) is decorated by a many-coloured pattern resembling a carpet. The arches in front of the two halls and the well-preserved doorways are exceptionally well constructed. The main hall includes two large rooms, one with *kokim* and the other with *arcosolia*; tombs are also cut in the spaces in front of the *kokim*. Here three Hebrew inscriptions were found; besides, this cave contained many interesting objects. The coins are especially useful for dating purposes; one dates from Heliogabalus (A.D. 218–222), the other from Maximianus (A.D. 286–305).

In the seventh tomb-cave the excavators cleared one hall with *arcosolia* and one shaft; in the latter remains of lead coffins were found. The door leading to the hall was made from basalt, and was tastefully decorated. The head of the family buried in this tomb was called πρεσβύτερος and, as one can possibly assume from the inscription ΟΜΗΡΙΤΩΝ, the family came from Himyar. Jewish motifs predominate among the decorations of this cave, such as a seven-branched candlestick, the 'snuff-shovel', and the *shofar*. In the chambers were found clay lamps, glass vessels, bronze rings, bronze and faience bracelets.

In the eighth tomb-cave was found one big hall with seven side-rooms; the latter had *arcosolia* cut into their walls. On the walls and above the tombs are over 20 Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek inscriptions; some are cut and others

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painted with red paint. The inscriptions show that the persons buried in this cave were rabbinical scholars; their places of origin cannot as yet be made out.

In the tenth tomb-cave the excavators cleared the big hall, which had arcosolia cut in its walls. On one of the walls was the drawing of a ship represented with all details, further drawings of flowers and leaves, various graffiti, and a Semitic inscription, as yet undeciphered.

The tomb-caves in the north-western hill furnished also various objects, including pottery lamps, fragments of wooden coffins, a great quantity of pottery, and glass fragments.

The second season of excavations has thus produced valuable material for the study of architecture, art, and epigraphy in Palestine in the second to fourth centuries A.D. This season confirmed the conclusion previously arrived at, viz. that in the cemetery at Sheikh Ibreik (Beth She'arim) were buried many Jews from other places in Palestine and abroad, especially from Palmyra.

The excavators hope to commence the third season in the spring of 1938. Dr. M. Schwabe is at present engaged in studying the Greek inscriptions found.

Tell ed Duweir

(Wellcome-Marston Archaeological Research Expedition to the Near East; directed by J. L. Starkey.)

SUBSTANTIAL progress has been made at Lachish on the city levels during the fifth season. It was found that the shops of the last Judaeon occupation to the south of the Palace-Fort had been terraced up over an earth ramp, thrown up against the foundation courses of the early Judaeon keep. Adjoining these shops, but rising up to the level of a lime-plastered courtyard, which had originally sealed in the early Judaeon city, were the remains of a large brick building on stone foundations and under the floors of the rooms a mass of potsherds was found, many discoloured by fire. Pieces of large decorated vessels of imported Aegean fabric were recovered, as well as sherds of a fine grey burnished ware, known from the level of Troy VII *a* and from Tell Abu Hawām, and the fragments of three small locally made pottery bowls, bearing inscriptions in Egyptian hieratic.

Twenty-five fragments of one bowl were collected, the text is written spirally both inside and outside the bowl in ink. As only faint traces remain, a complete translation is impossible, but it is clear that the authorities at Lachish were using the Egyptian calendar and the Egyptian system of numeration in these local records, which appear to concern tribute or taxes from the wheat harvest. On epigraphic grounds, Dr. Alan Gardiner would date these inscriptions as late as the reign of Merenptah. The indications of these scattered

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sherds, bearing traces of fire and fusing, promise well for the levels of the burnt Late Bronze Age city below.

A section dug just within the inner city gate confirms the statement made last year in this report that Lachish was twice destroyed by fire within a few years. Some eight feet under the last Judaeon road level, which is flush with the floor of the guardroom where the Lachish Letters were found, an earlier road surface was uncovered, sloping down to the main gate. Above the ashes on this road surface were fallen brickwork and plaster from the towers which flanked the gate, and a sterile water-laid deposit—the consequence of this fall, which had choked the normal flow of town drainage towards the city gate. Both these destructions may be attributed to separate Babylonian attacks, inferred, without clear definition, in traditional history.

Examination of the great pit, to the south-east of the Palace-Fort, continued throughout the season. A rock floor at a depth of 23 m. was located at the south-west corner, and this was followed round three sides of the pit by means of rock tunnels. No way of descent has been found, and at present it appears that the shaft was begun about the reign of Josiah, though, from the burnt debris of the city wall which encumbers the floor, it seems possible that the work was abandoned before completion, at the time of the first Babylonian attack (597 B.C.).

A new area was examined to bedrock below the north-east corner of the tell, where the rock was found pitted with quarries and tombs up to the level of the Hyksos fosse, which has now been located; several tombs had been re-used in late times for domestic purposes.

An outstanding group from a triple-chambered tomb included 192 scarabs and seals, several engraved with names of XVIIIth Dynasty kings. Adjoining burials added scarabs with two rare names—the Pharaohs Ay and Horemheb, which bring the series down to the end of the dynasty. Indications here tend to reinforce evidence from the tell and the XVIIIth–XIXth Dynasty temple area that unbroken prosperity at Lachish lasted well into the Ramesside era.

A surface find of banded onyx seal from this region adds the letter 'teth' to the range of the lapidary's script, the owner's name 'Shifatyahu Asyahu' is placed under the Egyptian symbols of the winged serpent and the 'ankh'.

Another addition to earlier epigraphy was made at the laboratory of the Department of Antiquities, where four letters were found engraved on the blade of a dagger from a Hyksos group (c. 1600 B.C.), found by the excavators in 1934. Dr. Alan Gardiner (*The Times*, July 16, 1937) has indicated its historical position midway between the semi-hieroglyphic Sinaitic script and the Phoenician alphabet.

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In the bed of the valley to the north-west of the tell a section has been uncovered of a Roman road which follows a course south-westwards towards the Wadi Ghuzzeh basin. Coins found on the road surface show that it was in use in Eusebius's day and it is probably the road referred to by him in the *Onomasticon*. The line it takes to the north of the Tell has yet to be established.

In London work is continuing on the large series of crania found in 1935-6.

'Auja el Ḥafīr and Isbeīṭa

No reports have been received from these excavations.

OTHER DISCOVERIES

1st July, 1936 to 30th June, 1937

NORTHERN DISTRICT: *Acre Sub-District.*

Nahariya

IN the course of agricultural activities at this settlement (on both banks of the Wādi Mafshūh, north of Acre), part of an ancient road was uncovered, running parallel to the present road about 500 m. to the west. The road was paved with small blocks of sandstone and was seven metres in width.

An inscribed stone was found on the eastern margin of this road. It measures 95 cm. in length, 30 cm. in width, and is 20 cm. thick. In its upper half a rectangular panel contains the following inscription: IMP(eratori) NER(oni)/CAESAR(i)/COL(onia) PTOL(emais)/VETER(anorum)/NER.Ḥ. (?)/NEA COL(onia)/ET/GEDRV.

Acre was made a colony by Claudius between A.D. 52 and 54; the veterans settled there are mentioned in various sources. The words Nea Colonia might refer either to Acre itself (and this would date the inscription to the beginning of Nero's reign) or to the place known as K'far Akko, the village of Acre, in Talmudic literature. Gedru is almost certainly the G'dōra of the Talmudic sources, viz. Jidrū, a ruin situated between Acre and Haifa (*QDAP*, V, p. 145).

The Roman road between Acre and Antioch was constructed under Nero (Thomsen, *ZDPV*, 1917, p. 15 ff.; Alt, *ibid.*, 1928, p. 253 ff.). Another fragment of this road was still visible in 1820 300 m. north-east of ez Zib (Siegesmund, *PJB*, 1911, p. 139).

At the northern end of Nahariya settlement rock-cuttings and a wine-press of a common type were unearthed.

Safad Sub-District.

el Jish

A rock-cut tomb containing many objects was found by the villagers at el Jish (the ancient Gischala) while they were digging a cistern. It has been cleared by an inspector of the Department. A full report will follow.

Haifa Sub-District.

'Atlīt

A basalt column-base was uncovered by heavy rains on the west side of the site, near the sea-wall of the Crusaders' castle.

OTHER DISCOVERIES

'Uyūn Mūsa

This site, lying *c.* 8 km. west of Nazareth, has been identified as a pre-historic site by flints found on the surface.

Nazareth Sub-District.

Nazareth

In the course of building activities near the main road, *c.* 100 m. south of the Russian buildings, ancient remains were found, consisting of (*a*) a stone press with two square holes for the beams; (*b*) a reservoir of rough plastered masonry walls of stone and mud; this reservoir was divided into three sections by two partition walls; its floor was of concrete; (*c*) a round limestone basin found *ca.* 2 m. south of the press. The whole was dated by pottery finds to the Late Byzantine or Early Arab periods.

Şaffūrye

A tomb-cave has been discovered at the north side of this village (the ancient Sepphoris), near the Kafr Manda road. The tomb contained loculi (*kokim*), two of which were closed with rough plastered stone slabs (dimensions: 75 × 50 cm., 12 cm. thick). The slabs were inscribed in red paint with Greek letters: on one of them the word *ψυχή* could be deciphered; the rest of the inscriptions have not yet been read.

Jenīn Sub-District.

Jalame

In the cactus hedges east of this village (*c.* 6 km. north of Jenīn) a villager found at a depth of 2 m. a small pot containing a mixed hoard of Arab and Venetian silver coins.

Nāblus Sub-District.

Nāblus

In preparing the site of a new petrol depot at the east end of the railway-station, the following ancient remains were uncovered: wall foundations regularly built of finely dressed stones; a stretch of a stone pavement running between the walls, probably the remains of a long hall; the pavement is laid with pink stones, 31 cm. square; another fragment of the paving had slabs 85 × 75 cm. wide, 12 cm. thick. The finds also included a vaulted chamber, the remains of an apse and a marble column, at some distance from the pavement.

OTHER DISCOVERIES

Tell el Far'a

A villager from Tallūza working in his garden at this site (c. 7 km. north-east of Nāblus) uncovered part of a mosaic pavement of the sixth century A.D. The part uncovered (2 m. square) shows hexagonal frames surrounding circles (pattern *H 5*, *QDAP*, II, p. 139). The decoration inside the circles is geometrical, while the hexagons are filled with representations of pomegranates. Tesserae of five different colours were used; there are 100 tesserae in every 10 cm. square.

Sabāstye

A Roman tomb of the second century A.D., remarkable for its use of pendentives, was found several years ago within the village, together with some decorated sarcophagi. The principal chamber of this tomb has now been cleared and measured; several pieces of sculpture were found. A full report will appear in the *Quarterly* after excavation of a subterranean chamber which has not yet been examined.

JERUSALEM DISTRICT: *Jerusalem Sub-District.*

Jerusalem

The following finds were made during the excavation of the new Municipal sewer:

In the Valley of Kidron near Gethsemane were found the remains of the Benedictine abbey of St. Mary of Jehoshaphat, of Crusader date. A full account of the finds will be published in the next number.

Part of a Late Roman or Byzantine road was found, leading from the Pool of Siloam to the traditional Mount Zion, the western of the two hills south of the city. The pavement is of very large limestone slabs, regularly laid.

A deep trench has been cut parallel to the north wall of the city from Damascus Gate to the Burj Laqlaq (the Storks' Tower in the north-eastern corner of the city wall), exposing a section of the quarry spoil, refuse, and thrown soil that have brought the ground to its present level. These accumulations contain pottery ranging in date from the Roman period to modern times. Some Iron Age II tombs were found in the rock near the Government offices.

el 'Eizariyye (Bethany)

A mosaic pavement was exposed by workmen while widening the road near the village.

OTHER DISCOVERIES

Hebron Sub District.

Kh. 'Aṭraba

Two superimposed mosaic pavements were found at this ruin (west of 'Ajjur village). The lower pavement shows coarse white tesserae with small lozenges in red and blue. The upper pavement is of superior workmanship and shows a guilloche border. Only a small part of these pavements has been cleared so far. Kh. 'Aṭraba has been identified with K^efar Ṭurbān, a village in the territory of Eleutheropolis, once the property of the empress Eudocia. Romanos, the persecuted leader of the Monophysites, was allowed to build a monastery there (*QDAP*, V, p. 160).

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: *Jaffa Sub-District.*

Tell Jerīshe

A tomb with Cypriote ware (Late Bronze Age) has been discovered c. 300 m. south-east of the mound. A full report of this discovery will be published soon.

Ramle Sub-District.

Jisr Jindās

Trial trenches were dug below the main arch in view of the proposed reconstruction of this bridge, linking Lydda and the new airport. Foundations of an earlier bridge, possibly of Roman date, were discovered in the shaft under the arch. Such remains had been already observed by Clermont-Ganneau (*Recueil d'archéologie orientale*, I, pp. 262-79).

Yibna

In digging the foundations of a house on the hill, the lower half of a marble statue was discovered (torso 1 m. long, 65 cm. wide), representing a Roman in toga and sandals.

Gaza Sub-District.

Ascalon

A reservoir measuring 35 m. square, with semicircular recesses in its four corners, was found at the base of the rampart near the sea-shore, outside the city wall. The reservoir was constructed of rubble and plastered.

At Bāb el Wād on the sea-shore, near the north-western base of the mound, a tomb was discovered, containing 26 vessels of Cypriote ware.

The remains of rubble foundations and of a mosaic pavement of small plain tesserae were unearthed south-west of the city outside the walls.

OTHER DISCOVERIES

Ḥajar 'Īd

A vaulted tomb of Roman date was cleared at this site, north of Ascalon, on the sea-shore. On the vault and the walls are paintings representing nymphs, animals, plants, a vine trellis, &c. A full account of this tomb will be published shortly

el Jaladiyye

At the south-western corner of this village (east of Ascalon) a press-installation or bath was found. It consists of several circular or rectangular basins with sumps or outlets and is paved with mosaics at various levels.

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¹ Continued from Vol. VI, pp. 227-9.

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ADDITIONAL NOTE ON 'THE SHEKELS OF THE FIRST REVOLT OF THE JEWS'¹

(QDAP, VI, pp. 78-83)

THE AUTONOMOUS SHEKELS OF TYRE

MR. E. T. NEWELL has kindly called my attention to an error in my recent article in the *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine*, in which I dealt with the find of Jewish shekels at Jerusalem. There (p. 82) I said that the autonomous shekel-series of Tyre came to an end in A.D. 65/6, having been issued during a period of 181 years. The date should be 69/70, and the number of years 195. My statement was based on the heading given to the series in the *B.M. Catalogue of Phoenicia* (p. 233), which was inexcusably inaccurate, seeing that there is in that same Catalogue (p. 253, no 245) a half-shekel of the year 195 = A.D. 69/70. The whole shekels may have stopped somewhat earlier, but not so early as I stated, since Mr. Newell has, he informs me, one of year 184 (from Rouvier's collection, but unpublished).

The issue, as Mr. Newell observes, was probably stopped by the Romans in 69/70. My slip does not affect the conclusions which I have drawn from the find, as to which it is a pleasure to be able to record Mr. Newell's opinion that it finally settles the question of the date of the Jewish shekels. The coins are to him obviously part of one hoard; and as to the Nāblus find, such coins as he has seen which probably came from it are entirely different in appearance and date from the Tyrian shekels, and could not possibly have been found with them.

GEORGE HILL.

¹ Reprinted from *The Numismatic Chronicle*, Vol. XVII, Series V, No. 66, 1937, pp. 143-4.

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A separate index will be published to 'Sela-Petra, the rock, of Edom and Nabatene' upon completion of the series of articles on that subject. The present index refers to pp. 45-63 of Vol. VII. An asterisk * indicates that the subject is referred to twice on the same page.

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